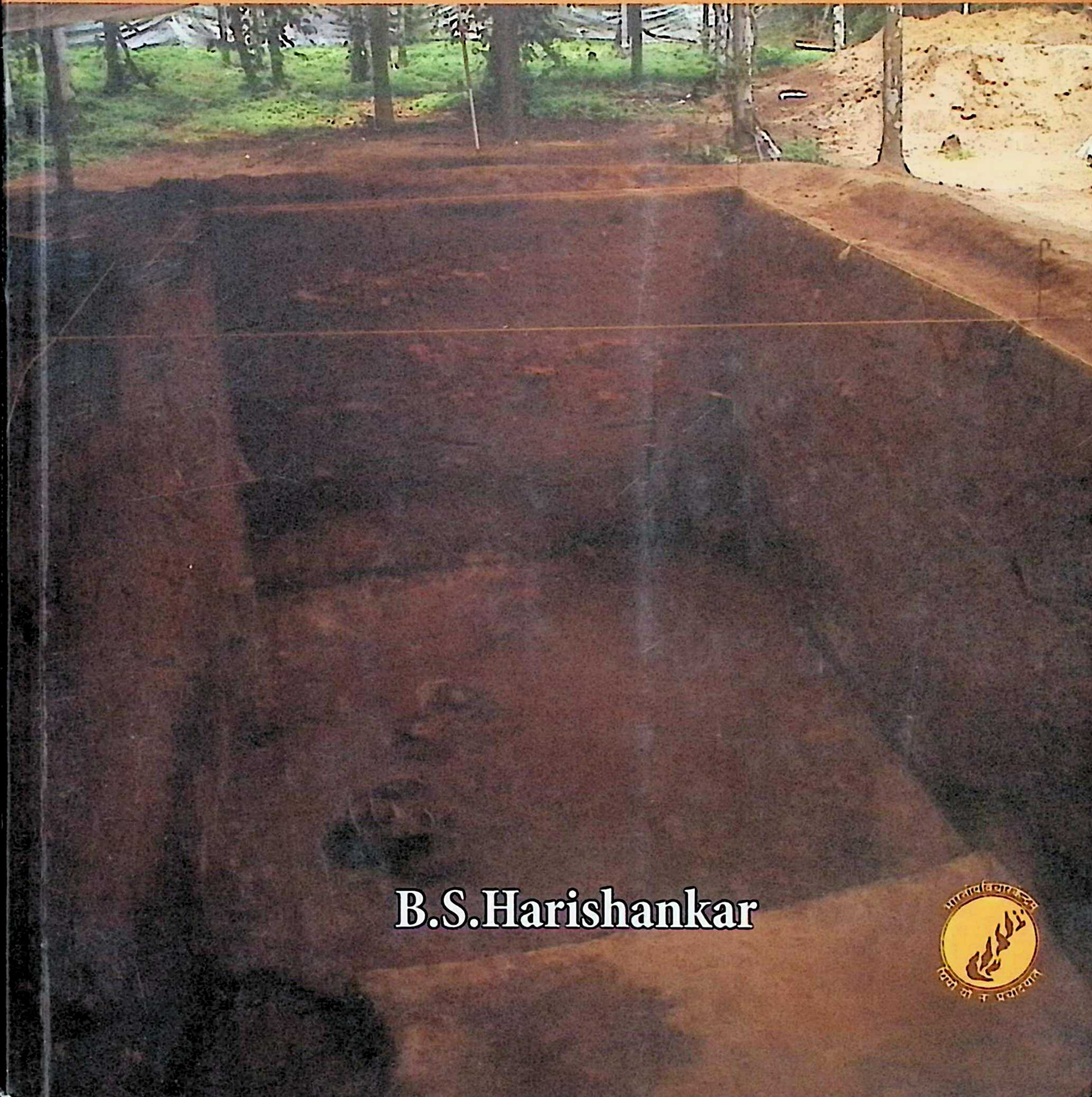
Pattanam

Constructs, Contexts and Interventions



B.S.Harishankar

KCHR should understand that any site it digs with Euro American collaboration cannot be designated a city.There are precursors to urbanism in Early Historic India evident in the excavated sites, such as immense size, internal planning, public architecture, settlement hierarchies, enclosing walls, script, craft specialization, long distance trade, subsistence strategies and population growth.The physical magnitude of the settlement is a major factor in claiming an urban character. A periphery of 3-4 miles applicable to the walled enclosure was common for major settlements in India during the Early Historical Period. Pattanam lacks such archaeological evidence.

Pattanam

Constructs Contexts and Interventions

B.S.Harishankar

Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram
Thiruvananthapuram

Archaeology|History
PATTANAM-CONSTRUCTS, CONTEXTS AND INTERVENTIONS
Author: Dr. B.S. Harishankar
Cover Design: Narayana Bhattathiri
Layout : C D Ajith
Printed at: New India Reprographics, Thiruvananthapuram
Published by :
Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram
First Published|2017
ISBN : 978-81-933379-0-5
₹ 250

© Rights Reserved
No part of this publication can be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted
in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying,
recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the publishers.

An imprint of
Bharatheeya Vichara kendram
Samskrithi Bhavan, GPO Lane, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 001

Office
Bharatheeya Vichara kendram
Samskrithi Bhavan, Statue, Thiruvananthapuram- 695 001
Tel: 0471 2461567 Fax: 2572575
e-mail: vicharakendram@gmail.com
www.vicharakendram.org

Foreword

Despite the historical importance of *Cilappatikaram, Periyapuranam* and other textual sources, the ancient past of Kerala still remains vague and obscure. For a period which has no inscriptional and textual evidence, archaeological excavations have much importance in Kerala.When KCHR launched Pattanam excavations as part of its Muziris Heritage Project, there was gripping enthusiasm that a part of ancient Muziris is getting unearthed.The public and academia expected clinching evidence of an ancient settlement and its cultural remains .

After Anujan Achan of the erstwhile Cochin State Department of Archaeology, Professors Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai and A.Sreedhara Menon, initiated studies on Chera lineage centering at Kodungallur. But it was Professor MGS Narayanan, former Chairman, ICHR who made a brilliant exposition on Cheras in his work *'Perumals of Kerala'*.Later, excavations were conducted by Professor K.V.Raman and Dr.K.V.Saundararajan around Kodungallur considered ancient Muziris. It shed light on the historic remains of an eighth century settlement of the Cheras. The metallurgy and crafts of Kodungallur retained a continuity. It survived from the 9th to the 18th century AD, evident from fine stone and bronze images recovered from the region.

The excavations at Pattanam claimed the existence of a Pre Chera Period. It raised much curiosity regarding the growth of Chera lineage and formation of the Chera state.The factors associated with the growth of the ancient Chera state raised a question. Did a Chera township survive as an annexe at Pattanam? The extent of interregional exchange networks and maritime trade in the Chera economy is a matter of debate. These questions have importance since Kodungallur was the site of the 10th century AD Jewish trade diaspora, the home of the archetypal Jewish merchant Joseph Rabban.

The environment of the west coast considerably influenced society and economy. It is a common knowledge that the Indian monsoon winds played a major role in maritime trade. Understanding the swing of southwest and northeast monsoons was fundamental for any study on maritime trade of west coast—Kerala.The ports located along the coastline vary in their geographical features and remained crucial in the trans-regional trade of the region. They linked Kaveri Valley, Deccan , Krishna – Godavari Delta and Ganga Plains through the Palakkad Gap and other routes .

Arguing an uninterrupted cultural existence for three millennia , the KCHR claims Pattanam as an urban settlement and civilization. Archaeologists and historians with whom we interacted, disagreed on the claims of an urban settlement in Kerala, much before the dawn of the Christian era.They convinced us that there are certain precursors to urbanism. Simultaneously, various issues associated with the growth of early Indian cities required a detailed regional and Pan Indian discussion of archaeological data including the layout of these townships. Problems related to early Indian urbanism have much importance in the South Asian context. Systematically excavated settlements under expert guidance have to be analysed and integrated with textual, epigraphic, numismatic and art historical evidence.

KCHR claims Pattanam as a major trade outlet and civilization. But we need at least a fortification and huge urban layout as pre requisites for a civilization. Did Pattanam satisfy these conditions as contended by the KCHR? Can we identify the existence of a civilization as claimed by the excavators in this part of Kerala on the tiny belt of Paravur in the lower reaches of Periyar river?

Hence, Pattanam which claims a chronology of three millennia has to be considered and discussed in the urban realm of Mauryan and Post Mauryan context. It cannot be isolated from early Indian urbanism as an exclusive outlet for Mediterranean trade.

This book examines environmental, archaeological and historical issues associated with Pattanam. The author, Dr.B.S. Hari Shankar has worked on South Asian Archaeology and served as Assistant Director, Indraprastha Museum, New Delhi. He examines multiple issues associated with Pattanam and Muziris Heritage Project. We are happy to present this book to the academia and public alike.

P. Parameswaran
Director
Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram
Thiruvananthapuram

05.10.2016

Contents

Foreword 3

1. Pattanam 9

2. Monsoons, Floods and Cultural Remains 12

3. Mudbank Phenomenon 17

4. Submergence of Ports 19

5. Trivial Stratigraphy 22

6. Manufacturing an Archaeological Mound 25

7. Antiquities Shifted 27

8. Archaeological Reports Shrouded 29

9. Iconography Under Wraps 33

10. Carbon Dating –Contradictions 44

11. Spices Board Examines Plant Remains 45

12. Urban Presumptions 47

13. Structural Remains Obscured 62

14. Faux Contentions 65

15. Identifying a Wharf and a Canoe 67

16. Specious Metallurgy 73

17. Ambiguous Claims 75
18. Flawed Arguments 77
19. Geneza Papers Truncated 81
20. National Museum Hoax 84
21. Spice Route Imbroglio 85
22. Colonial Hegemony 90
23. Academic Censure 98
24. At Crossroads 101
25. Marketing Strategies 103
26. Zealous Propaganda 105
27. ASI orders Probe 109
28. The Right to Control the Past 110

References 113

Reports
Press Clippings
Websites

List of Figures

Fig 1 : Pattanam and Sites in Lower Periyar
Fig 2 : Cheramanparambu
Fig 3 : Kilatali Siva temple- Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 4 : Matrka image –Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 5 : Brahmi - Kilatali
Fig 6 : Kaumari - Kilatali
Fig 7 : Dakshinamurthi – Kilatali
Fig 8 : Ganesa - Kilatali
Fig 9 : Siva and Parvati-Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 10 : Parvati –Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 11 : Nataraja –Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 12 : Cheraman Perumal-Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 13 : Sundaramurti –Thiruvanchikulam
Fig 14-16 : Pattanam Trenches
Fig 17 : Tamil - Brahmi Scripts at Pattanam
Fig 18 : Chaturmugha Digambara –Manjeswaram
Fig 19 : Mahavira-Manjeswaram
Fig 20 : Parsvanatha Thirthankara –Manjeswaram
Fig 21 : Rock cut Cave –Kallil
Fig 22 : Jain Sculptures –Chitaral Hill
Fig 23 : Wharf at Kilaiyur Palaeo channel of Kaveri
Fig 24 : Supposed Wharf at Pattanam

1

Pattanam

Pattanam is located in the Lower Periyar. This river in central Kerala waters Idukki, Thrissur and Ernakulam districts. The Periyar watershed is divided into 183 subwatersheds and 448 micro-water sheds. The basin has an inverted" L" shape with a maximum width at the intersection. The main tributaries of the Periyar River are Muthirapuzha, Mullayar, Panniyar, Puyankutti, Cheruthoni, Perinjankutti and Edamalayar. The river bifurcates near Aluva, one flowing northwest into the backwaters to the east of Kodungallur bar, the other flowing south to the backwaters near Varappally. It further bifurcates discharging into the backwater north of Thrippunithura.The backwater system is extensively wide between Kodungallur and southern frontier of Kochi. They communicate with the sea at Kodungallur, Kochi and Chetwa. The site of Pattanam at Lower Periyar basin is located in Paravur taluk of Ernakulam district in Kerala. (Fig. 1)

The Pattanam excavation was undertaken by KCHR under its Muziris Heritage Project. This is the first archaeological excavation undertaken by KCHR, headed by Professors K.N.Panikkar and P.J.Cherian who are modern historians.

The duration of human occupation, its continuity, intensity, post depositional alterations and effects of erosion on the

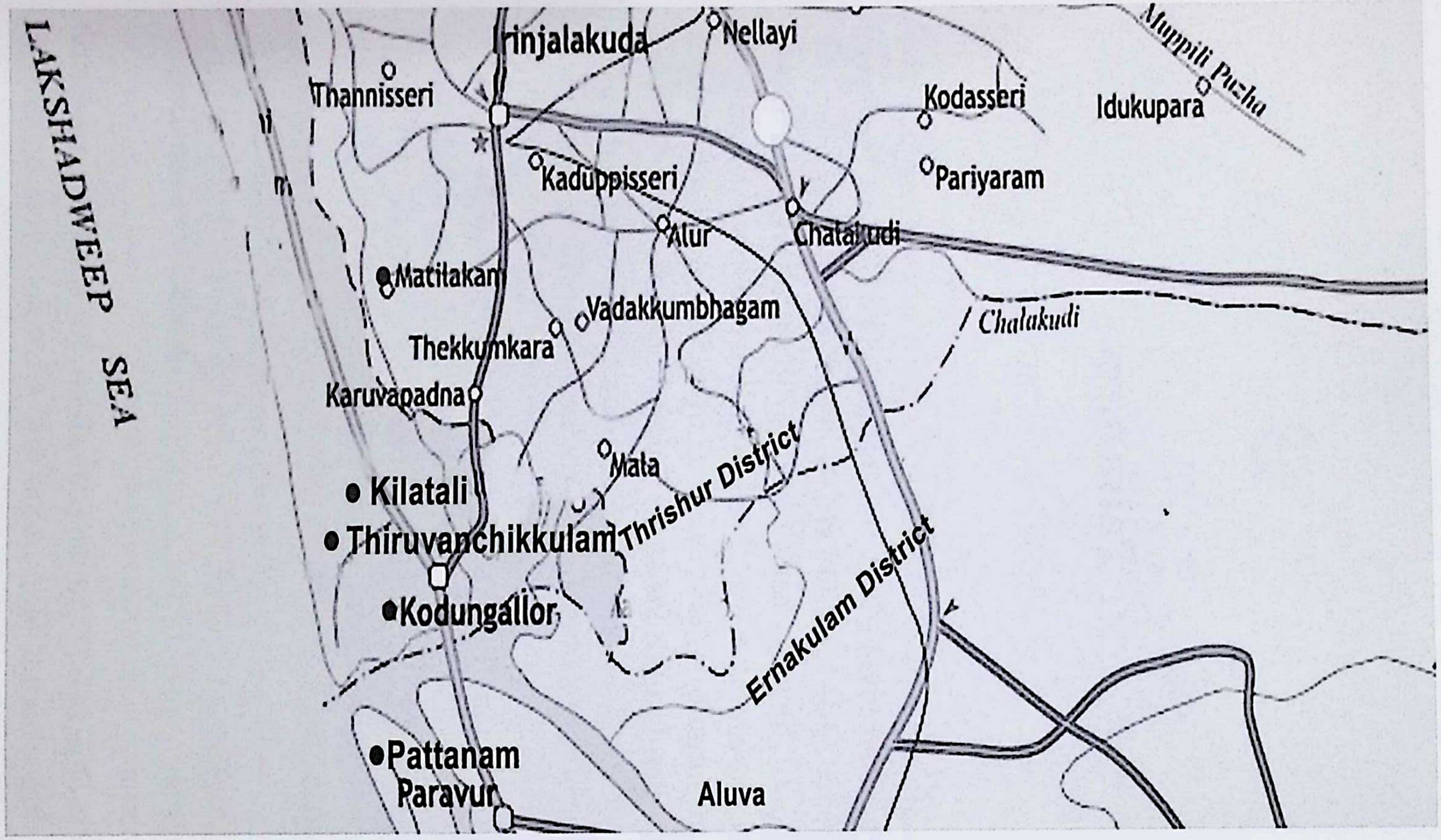

LAKSHADWEEP SEA
Irinjalakuda
Nellayi
Muppili Puzha
Idukupara
Kodasseri
Pariyaram
Thannisseri
Kaduppisseri
Alur
Chalakudi
Matilakam
Vadakkumbhagam
Chalakudi
Thekkumkara
Karuvapadna
Mala
Thrishur District
Kilatali
Thiruvanchikkulam
Kodungallor
Ernakulam District
Pattanam
Paravur
Aluva

Fig. 1 Pattanam and Sites in Lower Periyar

preservation of cultural remains are important in the archaeological context. During site occupation and its abandonment, post depositional processes may influence artefact typology. But no occupation, transition, abandonment, post depositional alterations nor cultural features have been recorded at Pattanam.

2

Monsoons, Floods and Cultural Remains

One system that had a tremendous influence on the trading world of the Indian Ocean was the regime of the monsoon winds. During the summer months these winds blow from the south west and at this time they are violent and stormy and frequently rise to gale force. As a result sailing remains suspended from May until September along the west coast of India as well as along the south Arabian coast. A reversal takes place around October and the north east monsoon dominates between November to April.Thus the season for trade from Gujarat to Aden was broadly September to May, for Aden to Malabar, October to February.

Das Gupta and Pearson 1999

The Indian Ocean Monsoon, which responds to global climatic changes, is influenced by circulation of the prevailing moisture bound winds which causes rainfall in south Asia. The southwest monsoons have influenced the growth of a hunting gathering and agricultural mode of subsistence in Kerala. The monsoon winds also determined the trading network of the Indian Ocean.The northeast and southwest monsoons have played a crucial role in the maritime trade of the region. During the intense period of southwest monsoons, the west coast is inhospitable to sailing vessels for departure. The northeast monsoons from November felicitated all voyages from coastal Kerala to west and south of Indian Ocean.

Earlier, better utilization of the monsoon winds by Mediterranean sailors was seen as the important phenomenon in the development of maritime trade in the west coast of India. Mediterranean scholars named it the Hippalus wind after the discoverer. But earlier studies have been questioned on a revised reading of Periplus as well as Pliny, Strabo and Ptolemy. It has been recognized that the monsoon wind was not a European discovery and was used by Asian sailors including Indians, prior to its regular use by Mediterranean sailors. L.Casson has suggested that the ports on the west coast of India remained closed at the height of monsoons.[1]

Even during the seventeenth century AD, the monsoon winds, rainfall and oceanic currents determined the pattern of trade, location of ports, flow of rivers and alluvial deposits, the depth and shallowness of coastal waters and the shape and structure of the coastline in India.[2]

Indian monsoons are a major feature of planetary atmospheric circulation and sensitive to monsoon fluctuations. The monsoons floods wash away not only human settlements but soil deposits with considerable cultural material preserved for a long period. Monsoons also cause huge floods in rivers of Kerala. Floods in Periyar in 1341 chocked the mouth of Kodungallur harbour. Floods in 1789 caused extensive damage. Similarly the floods in 1924 and 1961 submerged houses in Aluva region near Pattanam. The Lower Periyar also witnessed the worst monsoon floods in 2013, and Aluva region near Pattanam was virtually drowned. A major factor that plays a role in events such as floods is the periodic change of atmospheric and oceanic circulation patterns in the tropical Indo-Pacific region, collectively termed

---

1. L. Casson, 1980. Rome's Trade with the East: the Sea Voyage to Africa and India in Transactions of the American Philological Association, 110
2. Sinnappah Arasaratnam, 2004. Maritime India in the Seventeenth Century in Maritime India .New York : Oxford
3. 2008.The Britannica Guide to Climate Change .London: Constable and Robinson

as El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO).[3] Technical report by Government of India in 2013 has pointed out that soil at Paravur area where Pattanam is located is coastal alluvium composed of sand and clay[4], unsuitable for settlements. It cannot withstand monsoons and floods.

Higher rainfall in India during Early Historical Period has been emphasized by archaeologists and historians. Archaeologists have put forward evidence from various sites in western India that have brought to light ramparts which were mud embankments built along river banks as a measure of flood protection.[5] Such ramparts are not seen at Pattanam. The KCHR is unable to convince us how the site remained protected against heavy monsoons and turbulent floods despite the absence of any fortification or rampart.

Such an unstable area shall not be opted for human habitation, lapidiaries, construction of warehouse and a township at a time when monsoons and floods were much more intense than today.

The KCHR is unable to convince us how the site remained protected against heavy monsoons and turbulent floods despite the absence of any fortification or rampart.

In a study on oxygen isotopes deposited in fossil shells in the ocean sediment through AMS radiocarbon dating, it has been identified that the Indian monsoon was much more intense in the past than the present period. In the study carried out by scientists from CSIR-National Geophysical Research Institute, (NGRI)researchers from the School of Geography Science, the School of Earth Science and Engineering, Nanjing University, China collaborated in dating the fossils. Dr. S.Masood Ahmad, Chief Scientist at NGRI observed that studies in the past has shown that changes in Indian southwest and northeast monsoon even on shorter time-scales were associated with cold and warm events in the North Atlantic[6]. He observed that the Indian monsoon was much more intense 6,000-8,000 years ago. The average rainfall in the Periyar basin may be considered as 3000mm. In most of the areas of the basin, about 60% of the rainfall is experienced during south west Monsoon and 25% during north east Monsoon Period. Maximum rainfall was experienced in 1981 ie.3863mm (CWRDM, 1993)[7] and minimum in 1982 ie. 2130mm(IDRB,1988)[8]. Lower basins have recorded an average rainfall of 3447mm with a maximum rainfall of 4525mm in 1978 and a minimum of 2157.5mm in 1976. The monsoons have prevented the formation of a suitable habitational deposit, especially in coastal Kerala. In 2008, Dr.P.J Cherian, KCHR director claimed that Pattanam is the first habitation site of the Iron Age unearthed in Kerala.[9] But what is the thickness of this Iron Age habitational deposit at a site which is totally tampered and which has been constantly eroded by floods? The KCHR is virtually silent.

---

[4] T.S.Anitha Shyam, 2013. Ground Water Information Booklet of Ernakulam District, Kerala - Technical Report by Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources and Central Ground Water Board—Kerala Region Ernakulam District

[5] M.K. Dhavalikar 2001. Green Imperialism: Monsoon in Antiquity and Human Response in Man and Environment Vol XXVI No 2 .

[6] The Hindu, December 12, 2012. Indian Monsoon was more intense 6000 years ago, says study.

Certain rivers recorded precise information on ancient floods and such gauge record can be interpreted. Ancient floods are researched by palaeohydrologists through the study of slackwater deposits and palaeostage indicators (SWD—PSI) in stable boundary fluvial reaches.[10] Such studies have never been

---

7. Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM). 1993. Project Report on the Hydrological data on Periyar Basin

8. Irrigation Design and Research Board (IRDB) Water resources division, 1988. Water Resources Study of Periyar Basin Space Application Centre Report 1992

9. The Hindu January 9, 2008 Study points to 500 BC Kerala maritime activity

10. V.R. Baker, L.L.Ely, Y.Enzel, and V.S.Kale 1995. Understanding India's Rivers: Late Quaternary Palaeofloods, Hazard Assessment and Global Change in Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology of India (Statira Wadia, Ravi Korisettar and V.S.Kale Eds.) Banglore: Geological Society of India

attempted at Pattanam. In this context, the site of Pattanam on the Lower Periyar basin has much importance as it has been influenced by erosional processes and monsoons. The monsoon fed rivers of Malabar deposit large quantity of silt. Due to seasonal flooding during monsoons, and enormous amount of water ousted, the rivers bring large quantity of alluvial deposits which include cultural remains. Constant stratigraphy of the soil is thus never maintained and it is extremely difficult to identify the cultural stratigraphy of archaeological deposits in Kerala except in certain hinterland regions.

The floods of Lower Periyar question the claims by KCHR that the Pattanam site was occupied for a continuous span of 3000 years as argued in the 2015 excavation report. Evidence of floods has not been recorded from the various levels of the excavated area at Pattanam. Pattanam has coastal alluvium with sand and clay which impede water movement (low hydraulic conductivity) and retain water suppressing oxygen diffusion to a greater degree. Interestingly, the walls in excavation trenches collapsed at Pattanam on May 2010,[11] since there was clay at bottom layer and no laterite formation or any thick soil. Hence the claim by KCHR that Pattanam was preferred by Iron Age people for constructing a township is questionable.

The floods of Lower Periyar question the claims by KCHR that the Pattanam site was occupied for a continuous span of 3000 years as argued in the 2015 excavation report.

Data on the period inundated by flood, duration of flood, river configuration during and after flood, areas with silt deposits and areas vulnerable to bank erosion could be obtained using remote sensing data supplied by National Institute of Marine Archaeology and National Institute of Oceanography as well as Institute of Hydrology. But such institutions have been kept out for presenting flexible data convenient to the KCHR.

---

[11] The New Indian Express, May 5, 2010, Pattanam excavation trenches collapse.

3

Mudbank Phenomenon

> *I should also mention a curious phenomeneon, well known to old sailors.At certain places on the Kerala coast (during the South West monsoon) it is possible to find moorings in areas of calm water which depend upon the formation of mud banks.It has been observed that marine deposits of fine sized particles of green and black mud have been found near certain ports between Pantalayani (25 kilometres north of Calicut) and Quilon (which are 300 kilometre distant from each other). During the monsoon these sediments spread themselves over the entire thickness of the water layer, forming a colloidal suspension that may be 7 kilometres long and 5 kilometres wide, and having the property of reducing the movement of waves.*
>
> ***Jean Deloche 2001.***

KCHR is virtually silent on mudbanks that played the dominant role for anchoring of vessels in maritime trade. Mudbanks are thick accumulations of suspension of silt clay with isolated patches of calm and turbid water formed with the advent of southwest monsoons. They become clearly demarcated as areas of calm water adjoining the Kerala coast, during turbulent southwest monsoon in the Arabian Sea. The appearance of mud banks is associated with an increase in the force of wind towards the east. It spread themselves over the entire thickness of water layer forming a colloidal suspension. The mudbanks greatly enhanced Kerala's maritime trade.[12]

Mud banks which are elevations of consolidated mud become clearly demarcated as areas of calm water adjoining the Kerala coast.[13] The mudbanks helped the anchoring of vessels and discharge cargo during heavy monsoons. They disappear in the water after three to four months. At the mudbanks in Kodungallur, considered early Muziris, until 1789, vessels could moor in twenty feet of water without anchor or cables during south west monsoons. Dutch Admiral J.S. Stavorinus referred to a reef which extended at the mouth of the Kodungallur port at its north forming a harbour protected by mudbanks into which vessels may run safely during monsoons[14]. Mud banks also occur in coastal Kerala at various places such as Muzhippilangadi, Mahe, Quilandy, Kozhikkode, Beypore, Tanur, and Vadanappally which greatly enhanced anchoring of vessels and maritime trade.

---

[12] The Hindu April 25, 2002, Mud banks helped Kerala –Arab trade flourish

Mud banks appear in a semi-circular shape with average distances of 4-5 km along shore and 5-6 km offshore. Recently, a three-member team from Isotope Hydrology Section, Isotope Production and Applications Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai and National Institute of Oceanography (NIO), Kochi — tried to unravel the process of mud banks.[15]

A coastal map prepared by Jan Thin, a Chinese skipper and renewed in 1687 by Dutch engineer H. G. Faarant, is the oldest map on Kerala coast. It shows mud deposits in the region from Kodungallur to Kollam and ships anchored in the sea and cargo carried in small vessels.The map was preserved by the Dutch Government. It was presented to. K. P. Fabian, Indian Ambassador to Holland who donated it to the Archaeological Museum at Mattancherry, Kerala.[16] This environmental phenomenon which enhanced maritime trade in Kerala has been conveniently kept aside by KCHR for bringing a controversial wharf and establish Pattanam as ancient Muziris.

---

[13] C.K Gopinathan, and S Z Qasim 1974. Mud Banks of Kerala-Their Formation and Characteristics. Indian Journal of Marine Sciences, 3 (2).

[14] J.S.Stavorinus 1789. Voyage to the East Indies Vol 3.London:

[15] The Hindu September 13, 2015, Mud banks refuse to reveal their secrets.

[16] P. J. Tomy The Kerala Coast Causes of its' ruin and methods for revival http://www.keralacoastfate.com/the%20kerala%20coast.pdf -accessed on 9-9-2016

4

Submergence of Ports

The flooding of the Periyar in 1341 brought mud to ancient Cranganore (Kodungallur), and the progression of the offshore bar closed the port of Eli (in Malabar).

Genevieve Bouchon and Denys Lombard 1999.

Archaeological sites in west coast of India, such as Padri, Kuntasi, Dholavira, Shikarpur, Bet Dwaraka, Bhagatrav, Nageswar, Porbandar and Mithi Virdi all in coastal Gujarat and those in Goa such as Chandrapura, Vallippattana and Gopakappattana have been excavated without controversies. Similarly those in east coast of India such as Mahabalipuram, Kaveripattinam, Arikamedu and Pondicherry in Tamil Nadu have enhanced our knowledge of maritime India. Manikpatina, Retanga Mound, Gangapada Mundia, Niranjanpur, Mound Ghoradia, Odanapadar, and Duburakuda in Coastal Odisha are other major sites in east coast of India.

The west coast of India, especially Kerala has well devoloped beach ridges which represent ancient shorelines of the Pleistocene to Recent Period. The geomorphology of Kodungallur in Kerala considered ancient Muziris has been studied in the archaeological context. It revealed that the area has been completely disturbed and habitation material of Sangam Period buried due to tectonic changes. Various stages in the emergence of Kochi—Kodungallur coast and evidence for the interaction of marine and fluvial processes are important. Palaeo beach ridges are found in and around Kodungallur. After 18th century, silting of the river mouth necessitated shifting of the port from Kodungallur to Pallippuram.[17] [18] [19] [20] Vimala Begley who has worked extensively on Indo –Roman trade argued that Muziris has yet to be identified archaeologically and it is a hazardous task due to constantly shifting coastline of Malabar.[21]

The Kanyakumari –Manglore coast line exhibits evidence of neotectonic activities which shows that the west coast has been carved out by Western Ghats Orogeny and the related NNW—SSE trending release fractures. The west coast is tectonically evolved even today due to the rise of Carlsberg ridge and the Indian plate movement.[22]

Oscillations have caused geomorphological changes such as the formation of estuaries, backwaters and shifting of river courses. Oscillations of sea level has resulted in abandoning or submergence of ports and historical changes. Sea level changes in the Kerala coast are the outcome of climatic eustatic or isostatic phenomena. The Kerala coast has both submergent and emergent charecteristics.The studies on submergence indicate that the coastal region shows varying degrees of submergence. The

---

17. T.Mathai and S.B.Nair 1988. Stages in the Emergence of the Cochin – Kodungallur Coast—Evidence for the Interaction of Marine and Fluvial Processes.Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy 54, A, No 3.
18. K.K. Nair and C.S. Subramaniam 1993.Geology and Geomorphology of the Kodungallur Area, Thrissur District, Kerala. Paper Presented at the National Seminar on Archaeology and Toponomy of Kodungallur.
19. R.R. Nair 1976 . (Abstract) Stratigraphic Analysis of Kerala Basin.Seminar on Geology and Geomorphology of Kerala, Trivandrum
20. M.Senthiappan and V.Rangamannar 1978. Geology of Angamali-Kodungallur-Irinjalakkuda Area Ernakulam and Trichur Districts Kerala State Unpublished Report GSI
21. Vimala Begley 1996. Changing Perceptions of Arikamedu, in The Ancient Port of Arikamedu—New Excavations and Researches 1989—1992 Vol 1 (Vimala Begley et.al.Eds.) Pondicherry
22. S.M. Ramasamy 2005. Tectonic and Geomorphic evolution of West Coast Along Mangalore- Cape Comorin Sector, India in Remote Sensing in Geomorphology (SM.Ramasamy ed).New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency

erosion currently observed along the Kerala coast is due to a slow rise in sea level noted all along the west coast associated with possible local isostatic movements within the coastal zone. The Space Application Centre has carried out comprehensive study of the coastline using LANDSAT and IRS data. The present coastal geomorphology of India has evolved due to post glacial transgression over the pre existing topography of the coast and offshore. Vulnerability to Sea Level Rise (SLR) is dependent on the impact due to exposure to backwaters and estuaries. It increases rainfall, flooding and erosion.

Aspects such as flood and monsoon have not been considered either in Pattanam excavations nor discussed in its published papers and reports. The KCHR was only concerned in establishing that Pattanam is Muziris carrying maritime trade with Mediterranean region much before the beginning of Christian era.

Encouraged by the success of using archaeological sites as potential recorders of past sea surges, C.P. Rajendran and team worked on ancient Chola port of Kaveripattinam. The tsunami event layer at Kaveripattinam during Chola Period has been identified on the basis of sedimentary characteristics [23]. It has been observed that this disaster may have led to the collapse of a thriving port, never to regain its past glory. The KCHR has not initiated such a collaborative study at Pattanam.

Further, aspects such as flood and monsoon have not been considered either in Pattanam excavations nor discussed in its published papers and reports .The KCHR was only concerned in establishing that Pattanam is Muziris carrying maritime trade with Mediterranean region much before the beginning of Christian era.

---

23. C.P. Rajendran, Kusala Rajendran, S. Srinivasalu, Vanessa Andrade, P. Aravazhi,and Jaishri Sanwal 2011 Geoarchaeological Evidence of a Chola-Period Tsunami from an Ancient Port at Kaveripattinam on the South-eastern Coast of India in Geoarchaeology,Vol. 26, No. 6.

5

Trivial Stratigraphy

> ***One of the great challenges in the devolopment of archaeology has been finding ways to ensure that each layer in an excavation is at least identified and fully recorded before it is removed. Archaeological stratigraphy—the study of the layering of successive levels of soil on a site has been central to this.***
>
> ***Justin Pollard 2007***

Heavy monsoons and flooding prevent the formation of thick archaeological deposits. There are hydrological parameters influencing *in situ* preservation of archaeological deposits. Hence, Professor P.M.Rajan Gurukkal, a prominent member of the Muziris Heritage Project unambiguously admitted in 2014 that the site of Pattanam was unfit for any archaeological excavation as the soil has been virtually tampered by continuous human occupation.[24] There is no space for stratigraphical analysis of the cultural remains that have agglomerated. Periodic classification of copper and iron objects from Pattanam is impossible. The removal of an object from its context means that all the information it could have yielded about that context has been lost and the full significance of the object may never be understood. Frankly speaking, stratigraphy has been impossible at Pattanam due to lack of thick archaeological deposits.

---

[24] The Hindu, May 28,2014, Kerala historians at loggerheads over archaeological findings at Pattanam.

In modern archaeological research, site formation process has prime importance. In its recent excavation report on Pattanam[25] this stratigraphic sequence of occupation of the site, its depositional features, abandonement and post depositional processes are virtually absent in discussions. On the other hand, the KCHR claims that *"the stratigraphic understanding of the Pattanam site indicates five cultural layers, stretching a span of 3000 years from 1000 BCE".*[26] This is an erroneous claim. Each stage of occupation at Pattanam should have shown deposits worth some thickness, which is totally absent in the report. The reports on Pattanam do not provide a single reference to periods in the stratigraphical context regarding urbanisation. There is no reference in Pattanam reports to a Pre urban Period, transitional phase, Mature Period and decline in stratigraphical context. We find no ceramic, metal or bead classification based on stratigraphy belonging to Historical Period. There is no reference to any occupational deposit at Pattanam which shows Early, Mature or Late Periods. Continuous occupation of a site prone to worst floodings for three millennia without a break as claimed by the KCHR is unheared in history. KCHR is unclear whether a three phase stratigraphy within a single cultural period (the Early Historic) or multiple periods was unearthed at Pattanam.

In its recent excavation report on Pattanam this stratigraphic sequence of occupation of the site, its depositional features, abandonement and post depositional processes are virtually absent in discussions.

Despite such clear absence of stratigraphy at Pattanam, the KCHR adamantly claimed in October 2011 that *"It is the first site on the southwestern coast of India with stratigraphic evidence for maritime contacts"*[27]

---

[25] P.J.Cherian 2015. Pattanam Excavation Report 2015. Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR

[26] ibid

[27] *The Hindu, October 26, 2011, Postulating Hypothesis is no crime.*

At the annual conference of Indian Archaeological Society on 11 November 2011 at Thiruvananthapuram, Prof A.Sundara, Former Director of Museums and Archaeology, Karnataka lashed out against interpreting multiple antiquities from Pattanam without stratigraphy and arriving at firm conclusions. He asked the Director of Pattanam excavations to precisely record and classify antiquities from each trench rather than pooling together and interpreting them. Prof. Sundara firmly observed that their mere exhibition does not indicate they are antiquities. Discrepancies in excavations snowballed into controversy, and historians asked KCHR to handover Pattanam to Archaeological Survey of India (henceforthASI.)[28]

Continuous occupation of a site prone to worst floodings for three millennia without a break as claimed by the KCHR is unheared in history.KCHR is unclear whether a three phase stratigraphy within a single cultural period (the Early Historic) or multiple periods was unearthed at Pattanam.

In this context, the serious question that arises is why this tampered site was selected as the core area of Muziris Heritage Project? Did the KCHR seek expert opinion before selecting this tampered site for excavation? The KCHR invested crores, launching foreign personnel by simultaneously alienating ASI and Indian academia and bringing out reports headed by an Euro American scholarship.

---

[28] The New Indian Express, November 16, 2011, Kchr asked to hand over Pattanam excavations.

6

Manufacturing an Archaeological Mound

Through this process of destruction and renewal, settlements gradually rise above the level of their earliest occupation. Sometimes the results are dramatic.In the Near East, some favored sites, occupied for thousands of years, have become enormous mounds, built up gradually from the decayed remains of myriad mud brick houses.

Jane McIntosh 1999

Arguing an uninterrupted cultural existence for three millennia, the KCHR designates Pattanam as an urban settlement. In the recent work published in 2014, KCHR claims Pattanam as a typical archaeological mound which stores the history of some 3000 years from circa 1000 BCE [29]. P.J.Cherian agrees that this *'typical archaeological mound'* has been considerably disturbed. It is for the first time at the National Museum exhibition in 2014, that Pattanam is designated an archaeological mound. There is no mention to the shape of the mound or its slopes. There are no photographs of this mound prior to its excavation. Neither in 2008[30], or at the International Seminar in 2007-2008,[31] we find any claim by KCHR that the site of Pattanam is an archaeological mound.

---

[29] P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014. Unearthing Pattanam: Histories, Cultures and Crossings.National Museum and KCHR in Collaboration with Sahapedia

[30] Muziris Heritage Project —Pattanam Excavations –2008.KCHR

It is for the first time at the National Museum exhibition in 2014, that Pattanam is designated an archaeological mound. There is no mention to the shape of the mound or its slopes.

Now Pattanam is conveniently interpreted an archaeological mound. At the international workshop held in November 2015, P.J.Cherian contended that Pattanam, presently, a densely populated village, is an archaeological mound of about 111 acres extent.[32] Interestingly, at the Asia –Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage, 2011,[33] he makes no reference to the existence of such a mound at Pattanam.

---

31. The Living Dead and the Lost Knowledge- Abstracts of International Seminar on Muziris Heritage Project and Archaeological Research at Pattanam 2007-2008.Government of Kerala Department of Culture

32. P.J.Cherian , 2015. Pattanam Site and Architectural Features at Early Historic Port Cities:Architectural Features,Construction Techniques and Conservation with Special Reference to Pattanam. International Workshop by KCHR and BM

33. P J Cherian, K P Shajan, V Selvakumar, M Nambirajan & K Rajan *2011* Crossing Cultures –Abstract of Paper Presented at Asia –Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage 2011

7

Antiquities Shifted

Shinichi Fujimura –nicknamed "God's hands" for his uncanny ability to uncover ancient objects –had been videotaped burying his discoveries before digging them up again as new finds.

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn 2015

Much before the excavations by KCHR at Pattanam, trenching was conducted at the site and certain antiquities were removed. In 1998 a research scholar in Cochin University conducted trenching at Pattanam as part of his P.hD work. The antiquities obtained were transferred to U.C.College Museum, Aluva in Ernakulam. This has been mentioned in his P.hD thesis.[34] Dr.P.J.Cherian was in the faculty of U.C. College and in charge of the museum. Antiquities transferred are unknown and it questions the validity of cultural remains currently unearthed from the site.

Much before the excavations by KCHR at Pattanam, trenching was conducted at the site and certain antiquities were removed. Antiquities transferred are unknown and it questions the validity of cultural remains currently unearthed from the site.

According to the ancient monuments and archaeological site

---

34. K. P. Shajan 1998. Studies on late Quaternary sediments and Sea Level Changes of the central Kerala coast, India. PhD Thesis submitted to Cochin University, Kerala.

and remains act 1958, there are certain procedures involved in the trenching and removal of antiquities. An application to move antiquities from a site to an institution in respect of which a notification has been issued under sub section (1) of section 25 shall be made in Form VI to the Director General three months before the proposed date of moving them. On receipt of such an application under rule 28, the Director General after making enquiry may grant permission.[35] Did the Archaeological Survey of India grant permission in 1998 to move antiquities from Pattanam site to U.C.College Museum?

In 2004, P.K.Gopi, former Registrar of the Centre for Heritage Studies at Thrippunithura in Ernakulam district obtained license from Archaeological Survey of India[36] to excavate Pattanam and conducted some preliminary work such as trenching. It was this license which the KCHR obtained for pursuing its excavations at Pattanam.

---

[35] The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (With Rules 1959, 2011, 7 of 1904 and Madras Act 25 of 1966) .Delhi: Professional Publishers

[36] (F.No. 1/36/97 EE—March 01-2004)

8

Archaeological Reports Shrouded

The great Tiruvanchikkulam temple associated with Ceraman Perumal Nayanar, the nearby Tirukkulasekharam temple associated with Kulasekhara Alvar, the Kilatali and Cingapurattali which were two of the ancient Nalu Tali, and above all the site now called Ceraman Parambu (Ceraman Compound), all prove the location of the Cera capital at Kodungallur.Excavations at Ceraman Parambu have yielded relics going back to the 9th -10th centuries, though not to earlier times.

MGS Narayanan 2013

Excavations in search of ancient Muziris have been conducted in late forties. P.Anujan Achan excavated the sites of Cheramanparamba and Thiruvanchikkulam at Kodungallur in Lower Periyar basin. He unearthed iron and copper tools, glass beads, semi precious stones, ceramics of dull red ware and celadon ware which are dated to 10th century AD.[37]

In 1968-69 and 1969-70, [38&39] KV.Raman and K.V.Soundara Rajan carried excavations at sites in and around Kodungallur. The sites are Cheramanparamba, Karuppadana, Kilatalli,

---

37. P.Anujan Achan 1947.Annual Report of Archaeological Department—Cochin State. Cochin: Cochin Government Press
38. K .V. Soundara Rajan and K.V.Raman 1968-69. Excavations in Kerala in Indian Archaeology –A Review.New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.
39. K.V. Soundara Rajan, and K.V.Raman 1969-70. Excavations in Kerala in Indian Archaeology –A Review.New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.

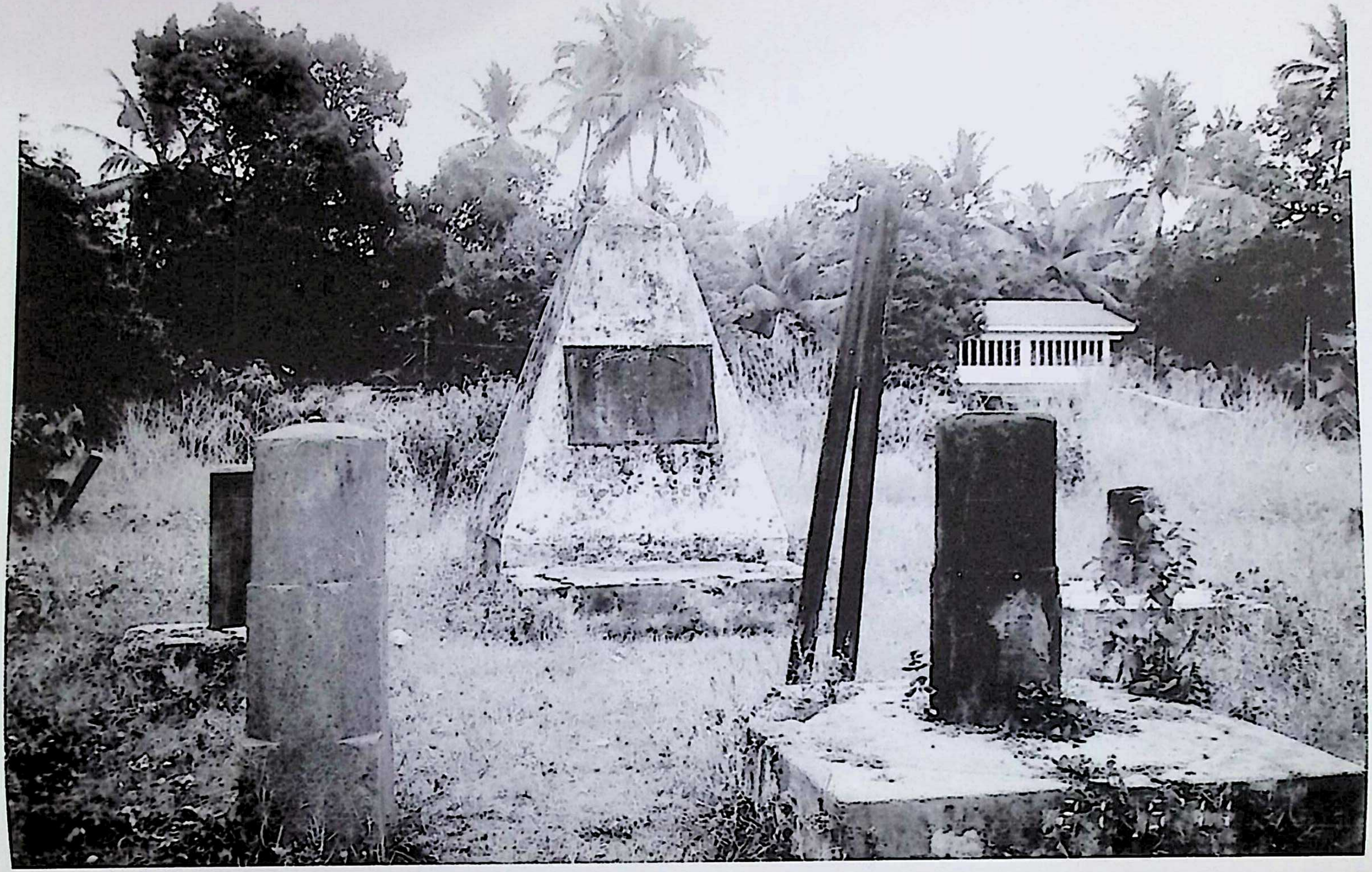


Fig 2 : Cheramanparambu

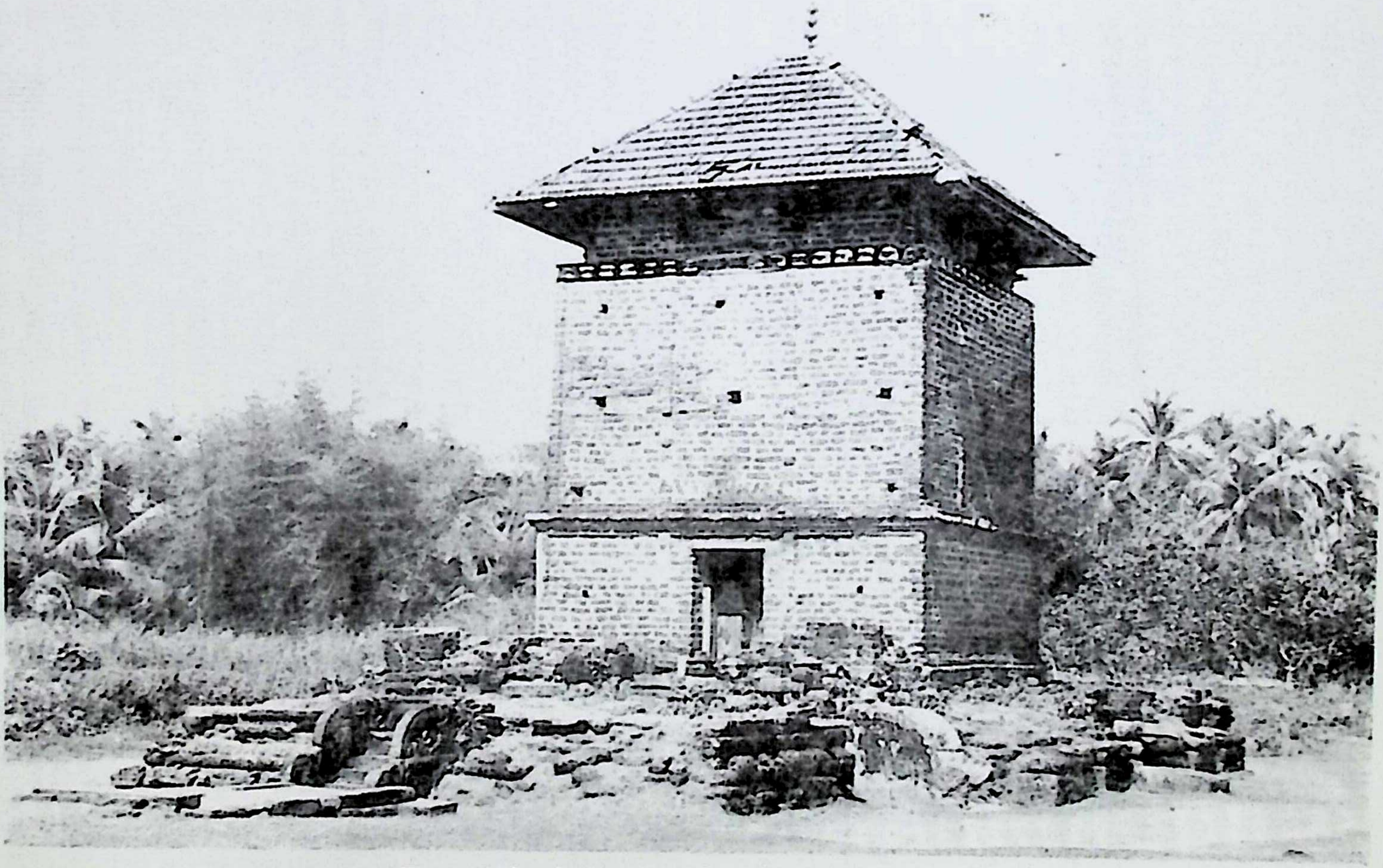


Fig 3 : Kilatali Siva temple- Thiruvanchikulam

Courtesy : Sarkar 1978

Madilakam, Thirukulasekharapuram and Thiruvanchikkulam. The cultural material recovered has been dated between circa 9th and 11th centuries AD. A 3m square was excavated at a depth of 5m at Cheramanparamba when subsoil water level was reached. Occupational deposit was found to a depth of 1-5 m belonging to 13-16th centuries. At Kilattali, a one metre thick cultural deposit was recovered which consisted of a sturdy red ware and flat roof tiles similar to those found at Cheramanparambu (Figs. 2 &3) At Thirukkulasekharapuram, a 70cm thick occupational deposit was recovered inside the temple premises. At Madilakam, a 1.7 metre thick occupation overlying the natural sand was unearthed. A laterite wall belonging to a temple was exposed. In the lower half, red ware, celadon ware, earthern lamps and Chola coins were recovered.

A 3m square was excavated at a depth of 5m at Cheramanparamba when subsoil water level was reached. Occupational deposit was found to a depth of 1-5 m belonging to 13-16th centuries.

R. Vasudeva Poduval former Director of Archaeology, Travancore in a letter dated 12th June 1944, addressed to Deputy Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India rejected Mortimer Wheeler's idea that Romans had extensive settlements in south India. This issue has been discussed by Professor Himanshu Prabha Ray[40]

Although not exclusively depending on archaeological data, Professor MGS Narayanan has done a quite comprehensive study using epigraphical and textual sources on the Chera monarchs of 9th century Kerala.[41] These source materials have not been discussed by KCHR.

---

[40] Himanshu Prabha Ray 2008 Colonial Archaeology in South Asia.New Delhi: Oxford

[41] MGS Narayanan 2013(Reprint) Perumals of Kerala.Thrishur: Cosmo Books

9

Iconography Under Wraps

A group of metal images preserved in the Shiva temple at Thiruvanchikulam presumed to belong to the seventeenth century are important not only from the iconographical point of view but also their historical importance. They appear as marvellous realisations of a moment between movement and tranquility, together with the suggestion of a quality of breathless rapture denoted by the gestures and tension of their form..The next two images are of Cheraman Perumal Nainar and Sundaramurti Nainar prominent among the sixty four Saivaite saints or Nainars.

Stella Kramrisch, et al. 1970

Stone and metal images from 8th century AD in ancient Muziris region have been kept away from the KCHR reports. KCHR which launched Muziris Heritage Project should have discussed these cultural objects for a contextual study of technology, art and urbanism.

Stone images from 8th century AD in Kodugallur region have been kept away from the KCHR reports. There are bronze images from 14th to 18th century. KCHR which launched Muziris Heritage Project should have discussed these cultural objects for a contextual study of technology, art and urbanism. These stone and metal artefacts have much importance, since the KCHR contends unearthing the three thousand years of Muziris. A number of stone images of *Saptamatrkas, Ganesa and Dakshinamurti* belonging to

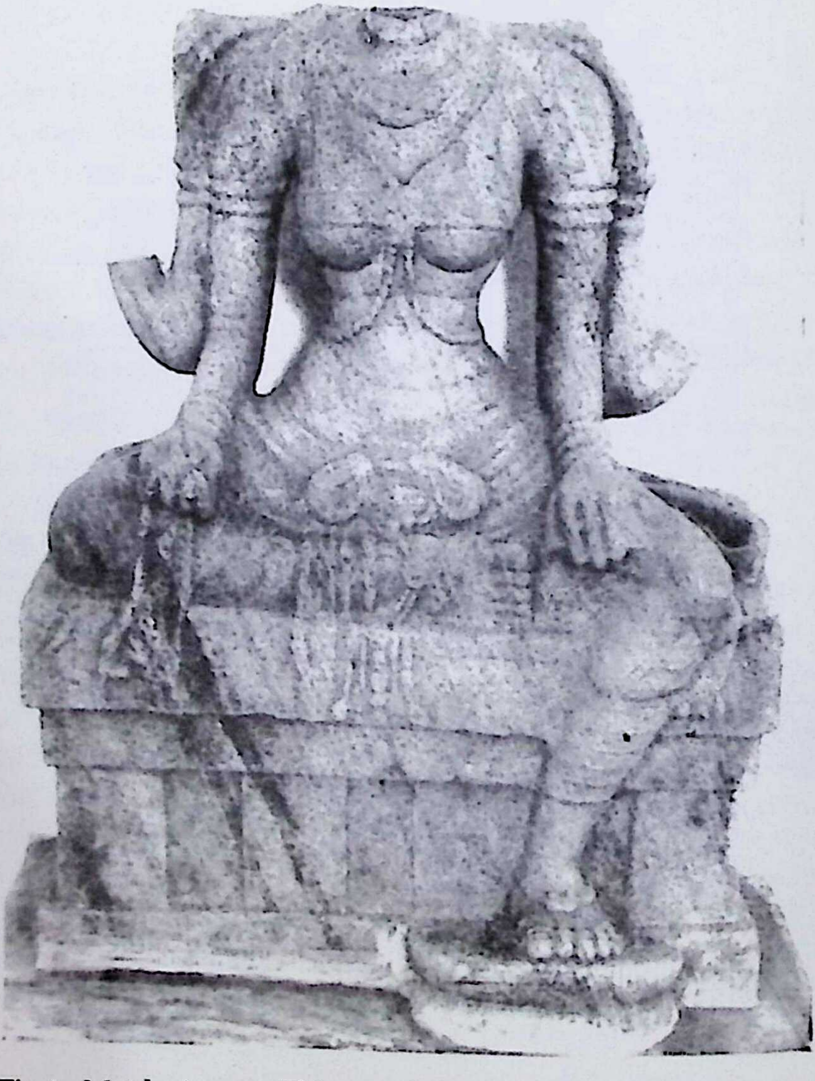


Fig 4 : Matrka image –Thiruvanchikulam, 11nth century A D

Courtesy : Sarkar 1978

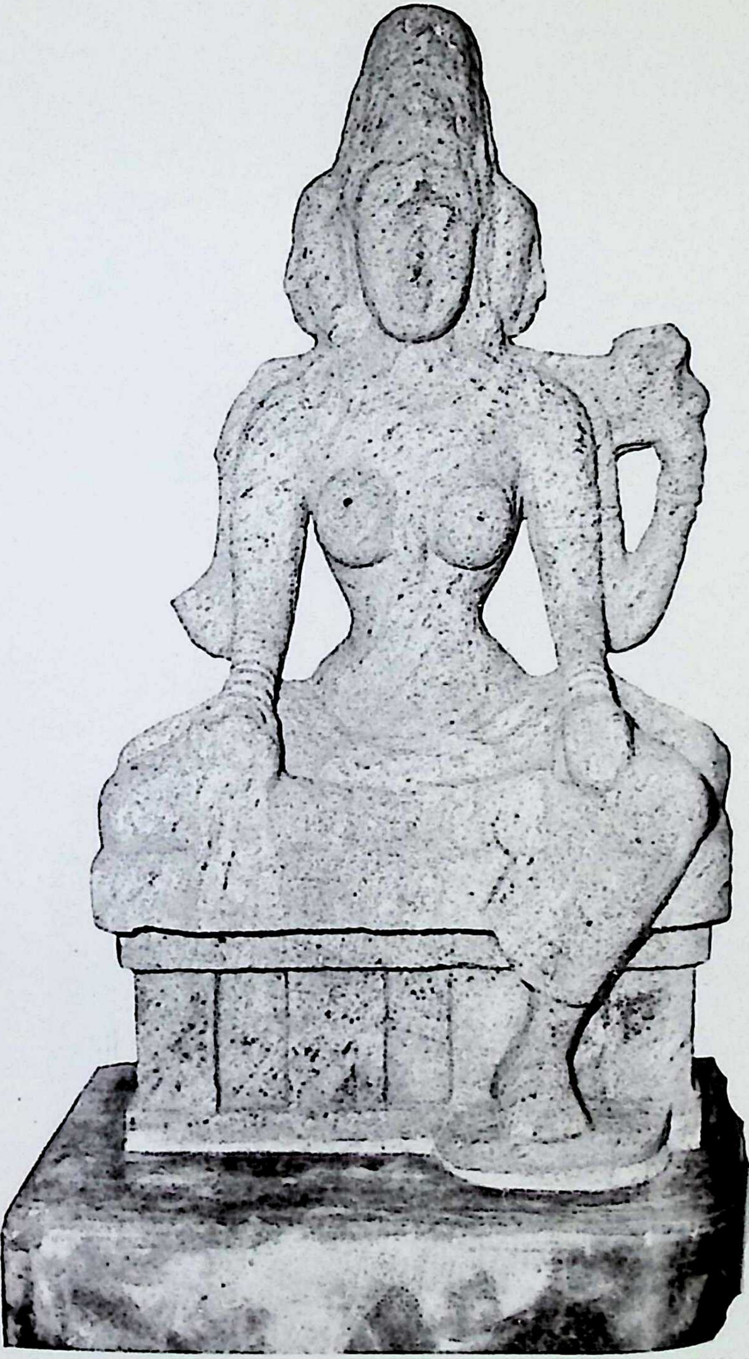


Fig 5 : Brahmi, Kilatali – Thrishur Museum 12th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

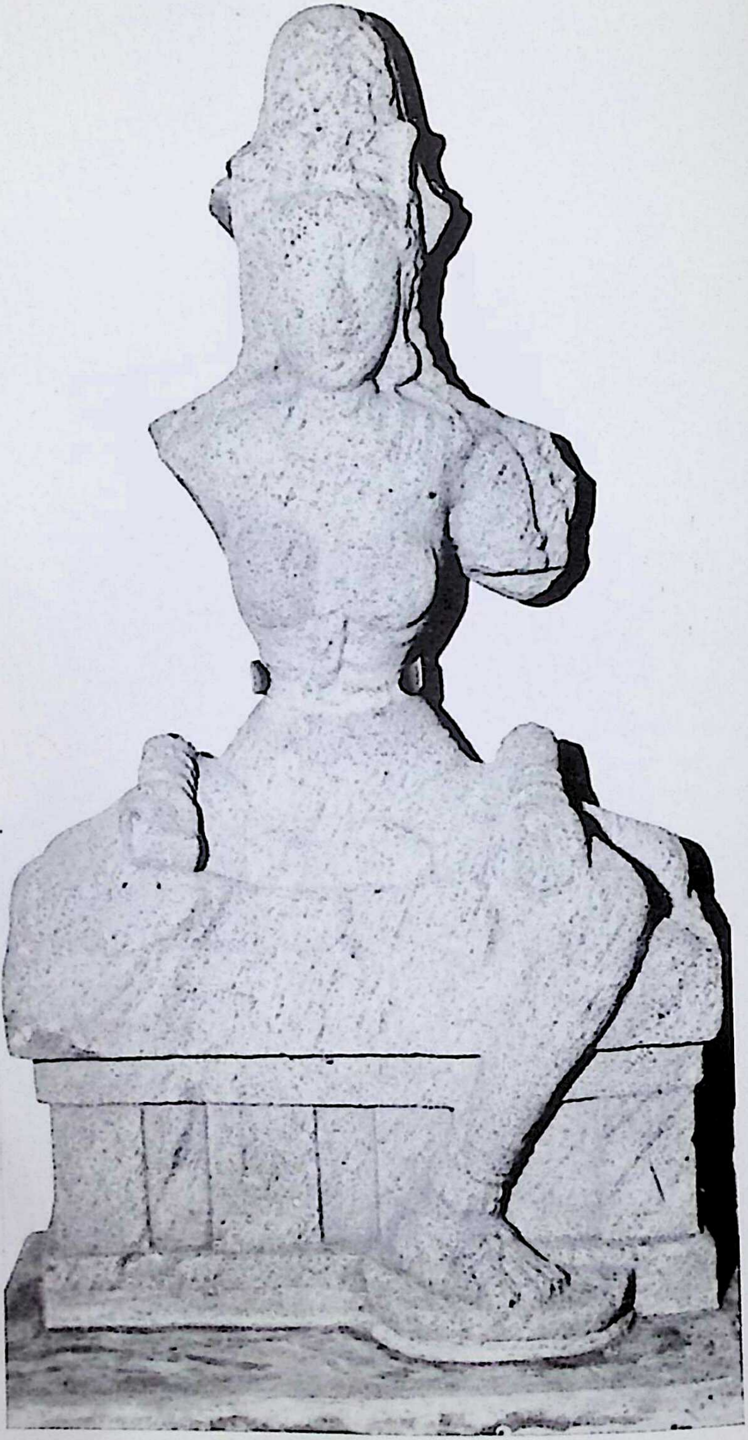


Fig 6 : Kaumari, Kilatali - Thrishur Museum, 11nth century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

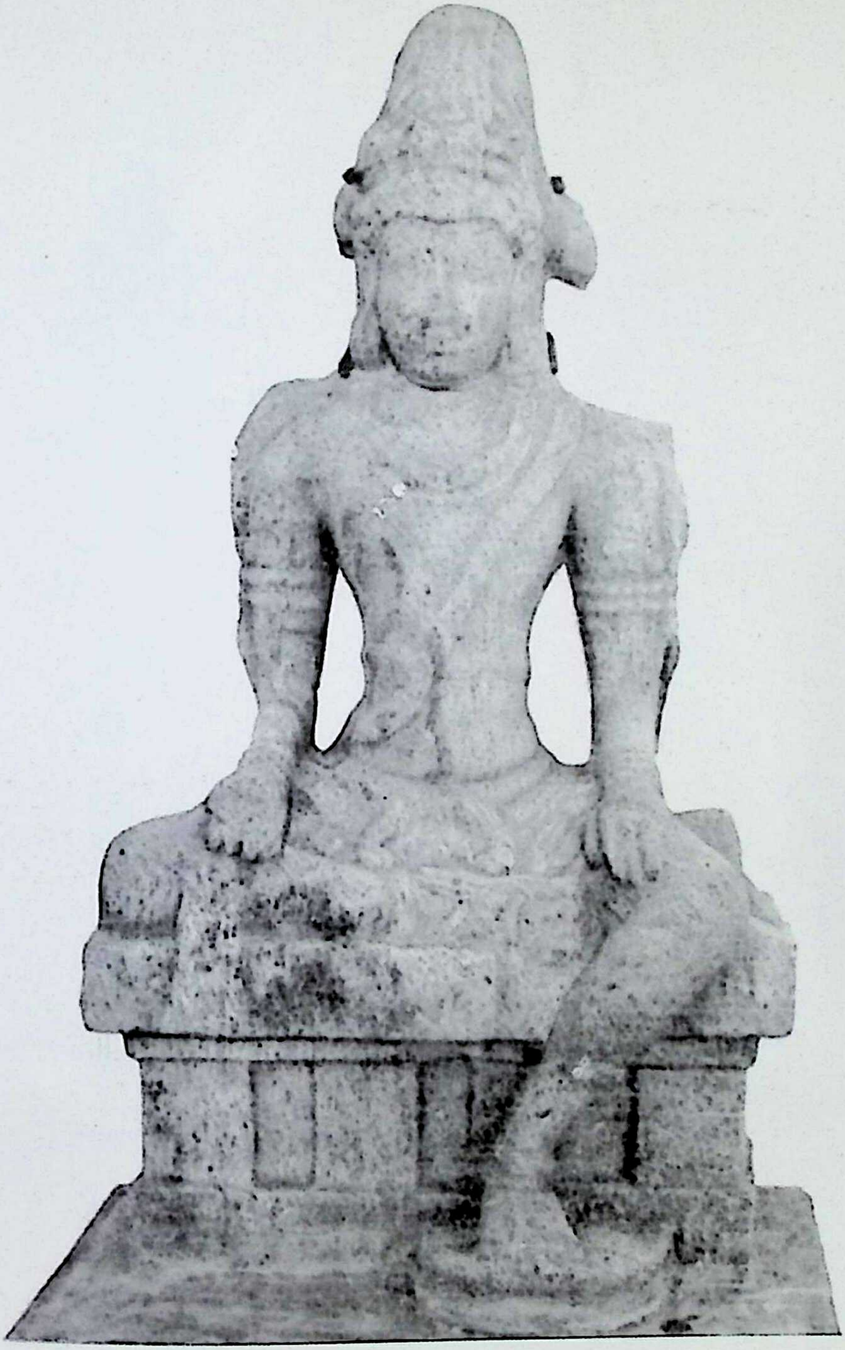


Fig 7 : Dakshinamurthi – Kilatali, 10th century A D

Courtesy : Sarkar 1978

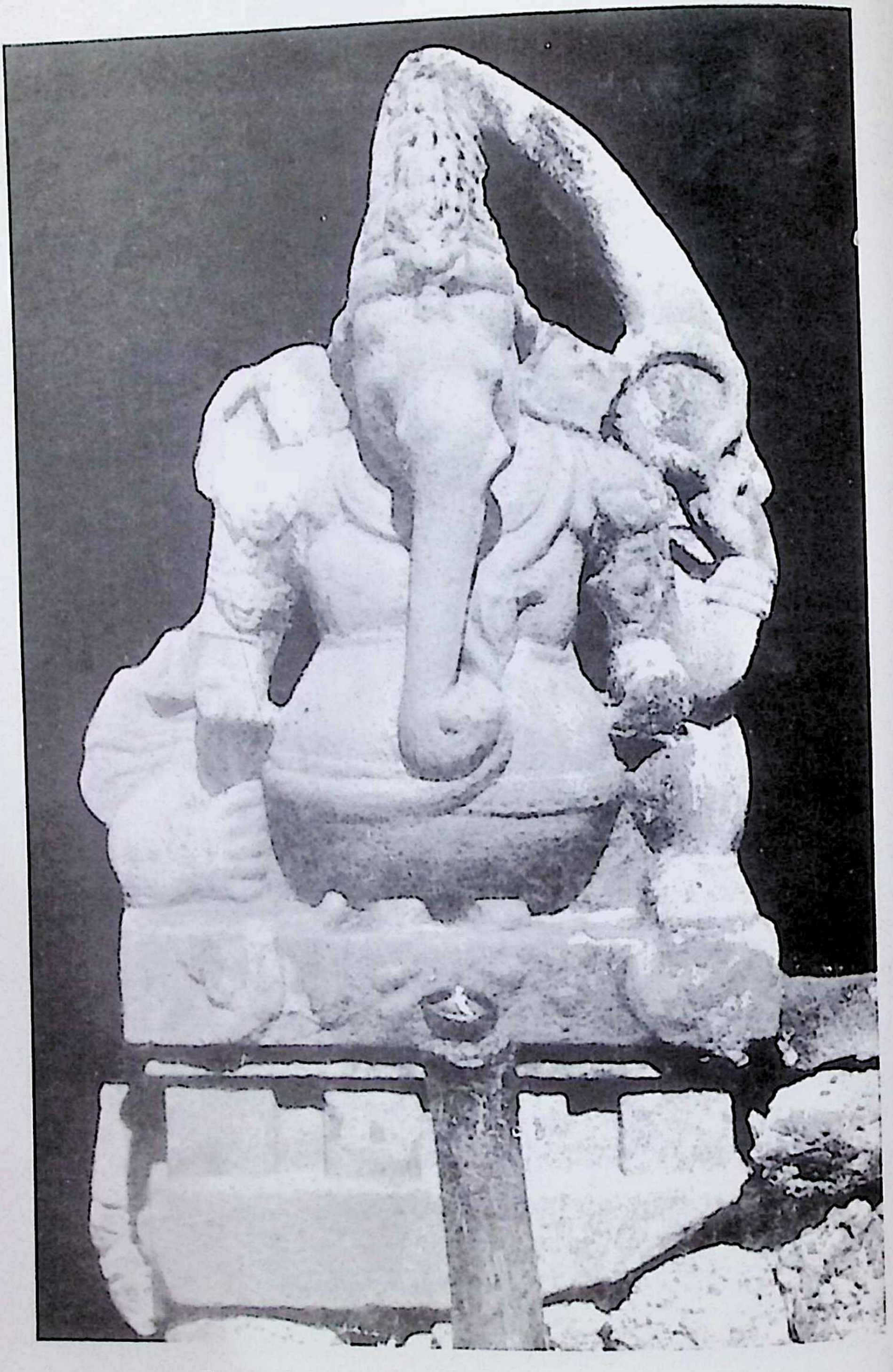


Fig 8 : Ganesa - Kilatali, 14th century A D

Courtesy : Sarkar 1978

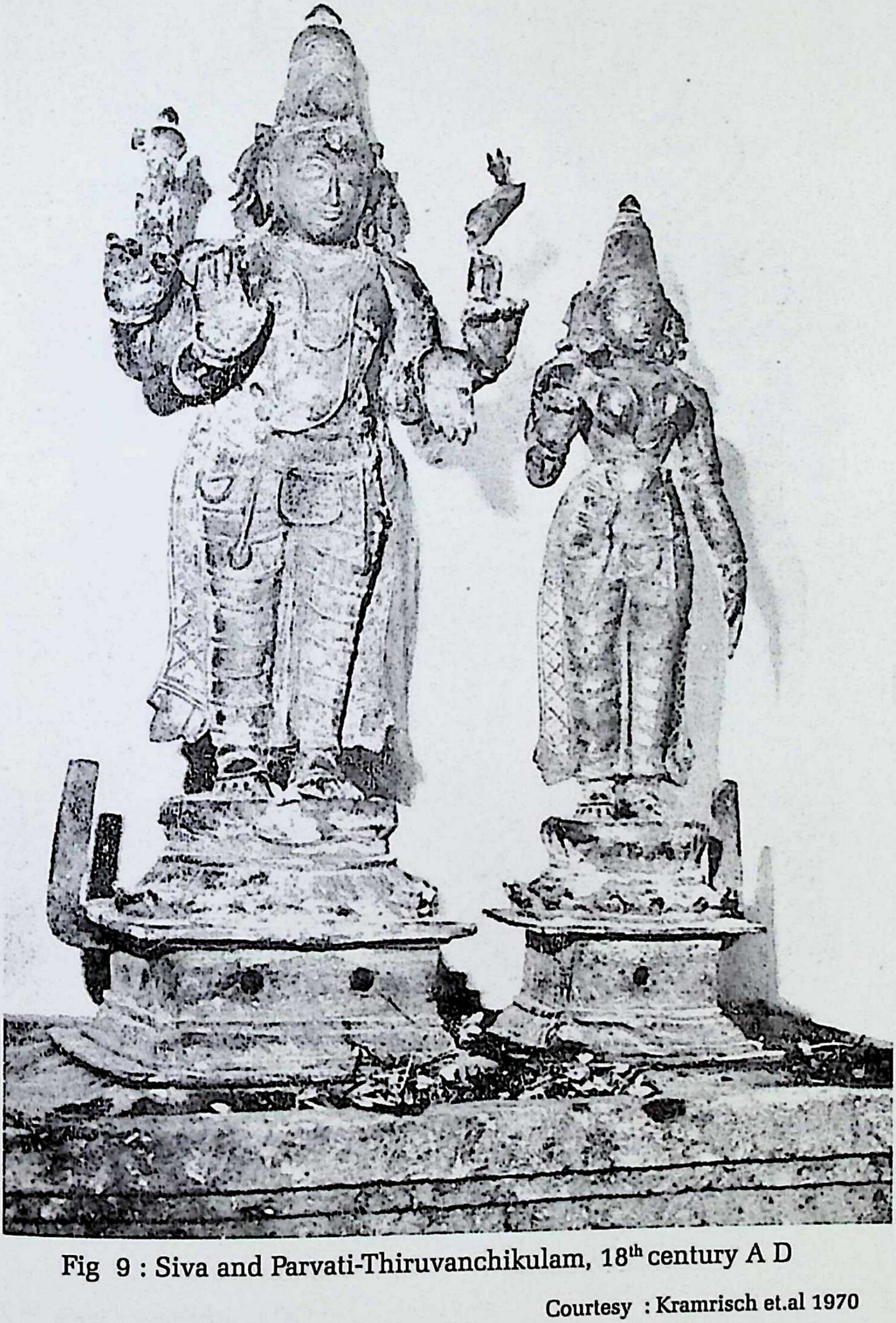


Fig 9 : Siva and Parvati-Thiruvanchikulam, 18th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

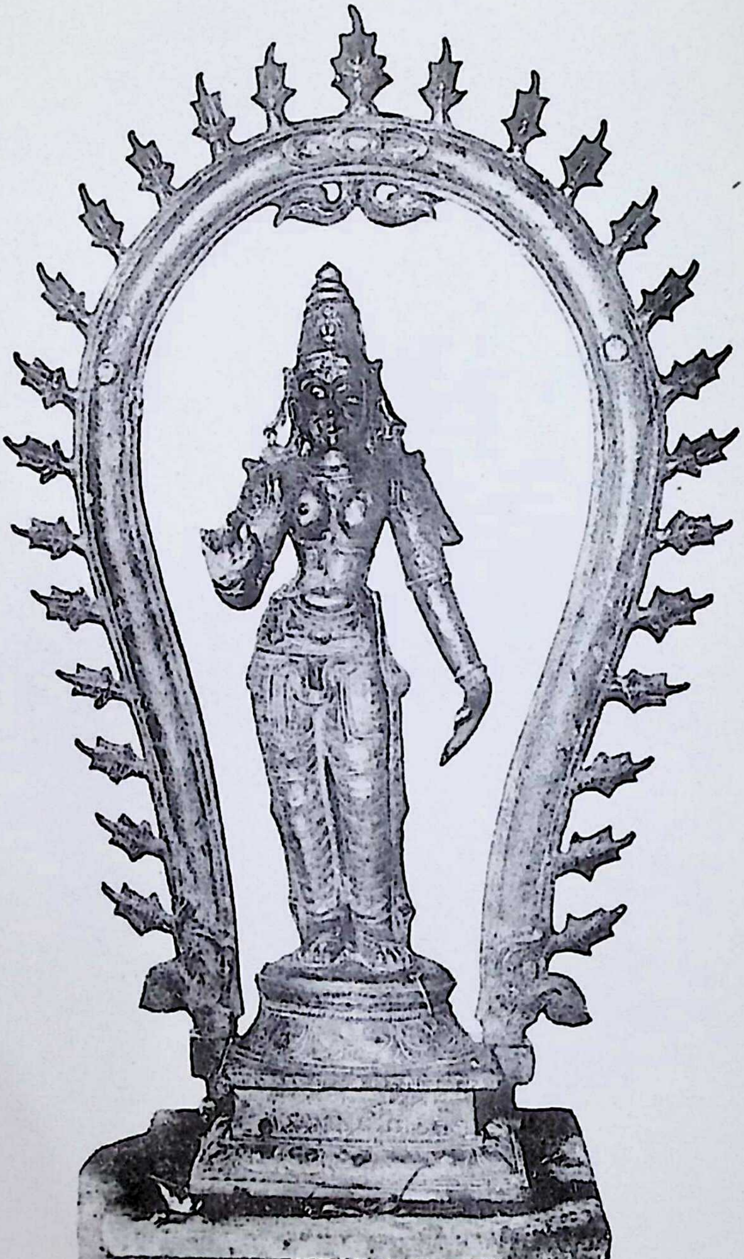


Fig 10 : Parvati –Thiruvanchikulam, 18th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

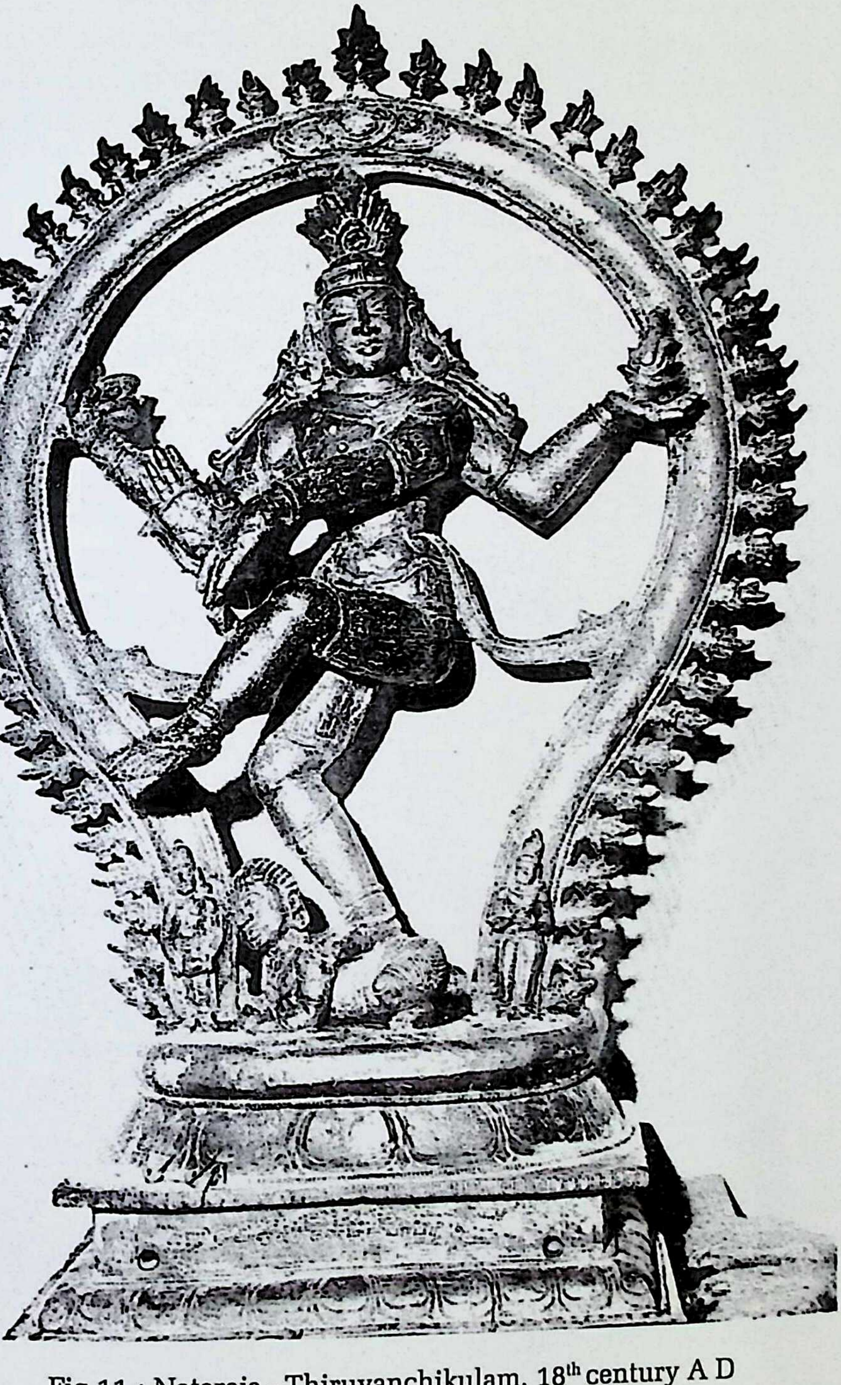


Fig 11 : Nataraja –Thiruvanchikulam, 18th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

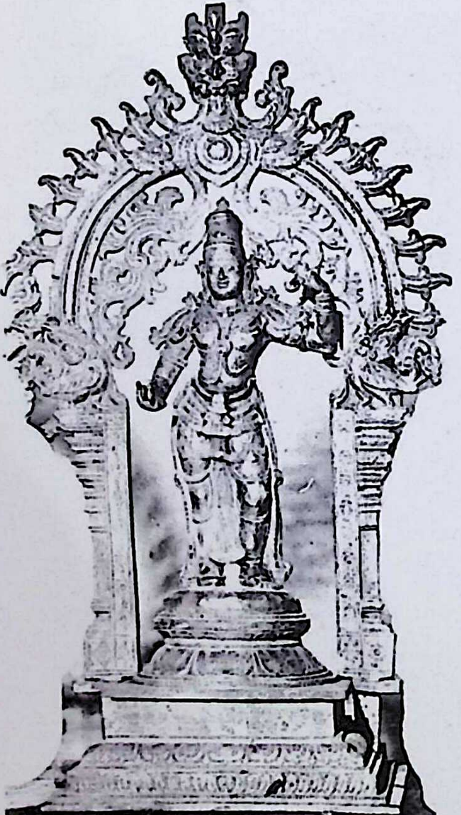


Fig 12 : Cheraman Perumal-Thiruvanchikkulam 18th century A D

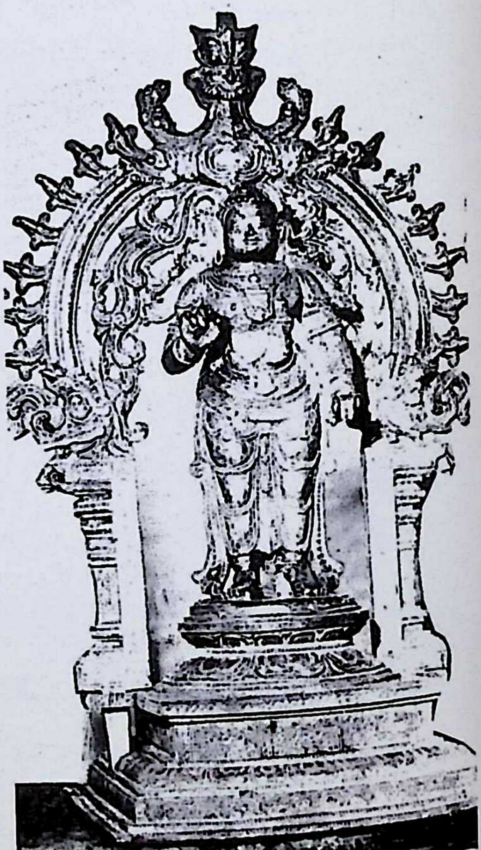


Fig 13 : Sundaramurti – Thiruvanchikkulam 18th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

8th century AD have been obtained from Thiruvanchikkulam—Kodungallur area, considered the ancient Muziris region (Figs. 4-8). H. Sarkar has also recorded a number of early Chera temples around Thiruvanchikkulam such as Kilatali and Thrikkulasekhara puram. [42]

Bronze images from Thiruvanchikkulam (Figs. 9-13) show Chola influence. The Chola art is unique for perfecting the technique of *cire-perdue* or lost wax process of bronze casting first intiated in the Indus-Sarasvati Civilization.

R.Vasudeva Poduval, former Director of Archaeology, Travancore, has recorded in 1970, rare metal images from Thiruvanchikkulam in Kodungallur belonging to 17th century. They include *Nataraja, Cheraman Perumal Nayanar, Sundaramurti Nayanar, Shiva* as *Umasahitamurti* and *Parvati (Figs. 9-13)*. The dancing *Nataraja* has a tamil inscription on its base which says that the figure is of the *Sabhapati* of Thiruvanchikkulam.[43]

C. Sivaramamurti, former director, National Museum has highlighted on the murals at Thiruvanchikkulam in Kodungallur, especially the sixteen armed Nataraja.[44] Reports have mentioned on Shaivaite sculptures, especially Linga forms in and around Kodungallur which points out that the place was also known as Kodilingapura. [45]

---

[42] H.Sarkar 1978. An Architectural Survey of Temples in Kerala .New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India

[43] R.Vasudeva Poduval 1970. Metal Images from Thiruvanchikkulam in The Arts and Crafts of Kerala (Stella Kramrisch, J.H.Cousins and R.Vasudeva Poduval Eds.) .Trivandrum:Paico

[44] C. Sivaramamurti. 1974.Nataraja in Murals of Thiruvanchikulam in Nataraja in Art, Thought and Literature.New Delhi : Publications Division.

[45] (Report of the Administration of the Archaeological Department, Cochin State 1926-27 Section II, Epigraphy)

10

Carbon dating –Contradictions

The radiocarbon laboratory established first at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai and later transferred to National Physical Laboratory Ahmedabad has devoloped a South Asian centre of repute for physical methods of dating and their application.

F.R.Allchin 1995

Dr. GV Ravi Prasad, Dr. Koushik Dutta and Dinesh Ray, Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar were in charge of carbon dating in Pattanam.[46] Later it was handed over to Georgia University in USA.[47] But finally following hot controversies, the carbon dating was conducted by Beta Analytic Inc. in Florida[48] Veteran South Asian archaeologist F.R.Allchin has emphasized that in India the radio carbon laboratory at Ahmedabad has devoloped a South Asian centre of repute.[49] It is a conundrum, why carbon dating was rotationally shifted and finally given to an institution in Florida when India has reputed dating laboratories. This raises strong doubts on the intention of KCHR. It seems the KCHR is quite apprehensive of C14 dating in India which might put the Pattanam project at crossroads.

---

[46] P.J.Cherian, G. V. Ravi-Prashad, Kaushik Dutta, Ray, D. K., Selvakumar, V., and Shajan, K.P.(2009. Chronology of Pattanam: A multi-cultural port site on the Malabar coast. Current Science 97:

[47] The Hindu 25-12-2011

[48] P.J.Cherian 2015. Pattanam Excavation Report 2015. Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR

[49] F. R. Allchin 1995.The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia—The Emergence of Cities and States.Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

11

Spices Board Examines Plant Remains

Authentic identification of plant remains, secure isotopic dates and dependable archaeological provenance contribute greatly towards the success of archaeobotanical research.

Vishnu Mittre 1989

Palaeobotanist Professor M.D. Kajale, Deccan College, Pune collected samples of organic remains from Pattanam such as pepper, cardamom, paddy, coconut shell, frankincense, lentil, green gram and teak to be subjected to closer scrutiny.[50] Any report if given by Kajale, should has been published by the KCHR. Eighteen wooden pegs were also unearthed from Pattanam. Dr. P.K. Thulasidas, Dr. Thomas P. Thomas and Dr. A.R.R. Menon, scientists from the Kerala Forest Research Institute (KFRI), Thrissur, visited the site to collect samples.[51] In this case too, any report, if given by Forest Institute should have been published by the KCHR. Finally, the examination was conducted by scientists from Spices Board in Kochi and Idukki districts of Kerala [52].We are not aware of any palaeobotanical studies conducted by Spices Board in the past.

---

[50] The Hindu April 29, 2008 New finds at Muzuris heritage excavation

[51] The Hindu June 18, 2010 P.J.Cherian -The tales that potsherds tell at Pattanam

[52] Report on archaeo botanical enquiries in Pattanam. Excavation Report 2015. KCHR : Thiruvananthapuram

The Spices Board is an institution under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Does it possess a team for conducting palaeobotanical studies or hold any prior experience in this field? If Professor Kajale was unavailable, KCHR could have sent the botanical remains to Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow for examination. It is an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, New Delhi, dedicated to both fundamental and applied aspects of plant fossil research. It seems that the KCHR does not want to hand over the botanical samples from Pattanam to credible institutions for analysis and report.

The Spices Board is an institution under Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. Does it possess a team for conducting palaeobotanical studies or hold any prior experience in this field?

12

Urban Presumptions

The town (in Early Historic India) was enclosed by a moat or a rampart, and was sometimes fortified.Digging a moat probably threw up enough earth for the beginnings of a rampart.These sometimes began as mud –fillings , as at Rajghat, and graduated to include bricks, as at Kaushambi. Since many of the towns were located on river banks the rampart would have been a protection against flood, as well as providing a minimal defence against predators and raids. As it devoloped, the urban ambience was different from that of the village and this may also have encouraged a demarcation.

Romila Thapar 2002.

Earlier an euphoria was created by KCHR, arguing that Pattanam was the site of a civilization. In May 2010, KCHR claimed that it has evidence on existence of ancient civilization at Pattanam[53]. It emphasized on further studies to get a clear picture of how these civilizations existed. Again in 2010, KCHR director P.J. Cherian asserted the presence of ancient civilizations at Pattanam.[54]. It was interpreted that Pattanam was an advanced metal working and stone cutting site with metal objects and lapidaries.

No large or small fortification walls have been found at

---

[53] The Hindu May 29, 2010. Pattanam excavation significant: Baby

[54] P.J.Cherian 2009-10.Pattanam to Challenge Eurocentric Notions and help Rewrite the History of Indian Ocean Trade in Journal of Indian Ocean Archaeology (Sunil Gupta ed.) No.6.

Pattanam which corroborates urban architectural features. Ring wells have been reported from Pattanam. But there is no mention in Pattanam reports regarding ring wells found at Chinnavanagiri, Arikamedu and Vasavasamudram in Tamil Nadu. The height of the rings found in ring wells between Chinnavanagiri and Vasavasamudram varies from 16 to 43 cm, while rings from Poompuhar are 15 to 25 cm in height. Such reference to ring wells or comparative analysis has not been attempted at Pattanam. KCHR contends that Pattanam sheds light on the period before 9th Century BCE. The excavators suggest features such as burned bricks, brick walls, soakage pits, roofing tiles, ring wells and spatial orientation of structures which suggest Early Historic urban architectural features.[55] KCHR also argues an industrial character for Pattanam which they claim is evident from metallurgy, lapidiary, cotton weaving and terracotta crafts. KCHR also assert residential and industrial structures at Pattanam.[56]

Let us keep aside early historic urban sites in the Ganga Valley. Has KCHR observed features of early historic urban sites in peninsular India such as Bhokardan, Paithan, Tagara, Brahmapuri, Adam and Kaundinyapur in Maharashtra; Banavasi, Isila, Chandravalli, Udayvara, Vadgaon–Madhavpur and Sannati in Karnataka; Nagarjunakonda, Satanikota, Dhanyakataka, Kondapur and Peddavegi in Andhra; Korkai, Kaverippattinam, Arikamedu, Kanchipuram, Karaikadu, Varushanad, Azhagankulam and Keezhadi in Tamil Nadu? Most of these sites belonging to Pre Mauryan, Mauryan and Satavahana Periods have constructions such as fortifications, moats and ramparts. They have also yielded Roman amphora and Roman bronze images besides other antiquities.

---

55. P.J.Cherian 2007-08.The Living Dead and the Lost Knowledge. Muziris Heritage Project and the Archaeological Research at Pattanam:An Overview.Paper at International Seminar on Muziris Heritage Project, Thiruvananthapuram

56. P J Cherian, K P Shajan, V Selvakumar, M Nambirajan & K Rajan 2011 Crossing Cultures –(abstract)Paper Presented at Asia –Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage 2011

Since the KCHR excavation reports claim Pattanam as an urban site, it raises serious doubts. Did KCHR find fortifications, moats and ramparts at Pattanam? Was there a pre Mauryan phase at Pattanam? What were the features of this Pre Mauryan phase ? KCHR cannot provide an answer since the trenches are empty (Figs. 14-16).

Some sites have originated as Chalcolithic or Megalithic settlements and developed as historical townships. Paithan or Prathishthana originated as a Chalcolithic settlement and developed as the southern terminus of the trade route between Ganga Valley and Deccan. At Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu, the sequence begins with Megalithic black and red ware but provides evidence of Roman amphorae and rouletted ware at a later level. An excavation at Kaveripattinam reconstructs its history from 300BC to 1200AD from a small village port to a large port city. At Arikamedu, recent excavations have proved that a well established settlement originated much before the beginning of Meditteranenan trade. Recently, Kodumanal provides a classic example of evidence from Megalithic to Early Historical Periods.

Pattanam provides no such evidences of a Megalithic Period or its transition and development to the Historical Period since the site is badly tampered unable to show any cultural transformation.

In the excavation report 2015, the KCHR claims that Pattanam archaeological research has confirmed the existence of an urban settlement in the Periyar valley 2000 years back.[57] In the KCHR Annual Report 2009-2010 there is neither reference to such urban architectural remains or photographs of trenches showing structural remains vindicating KCHR claims.

At the 77th session of the Indian History Congress held at Thiruvananthapuram in December 2016, P.J. Cherian claimed Pattanam as an urban township which conducted trade with sixty port cities across the world. Despite claims by the organisers, no eminent archaeologist chaired the session to vindicate his observations.

---

[57] P.J.Cherian 2015.9th Season Pattanam Excavation Report 2015. Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR

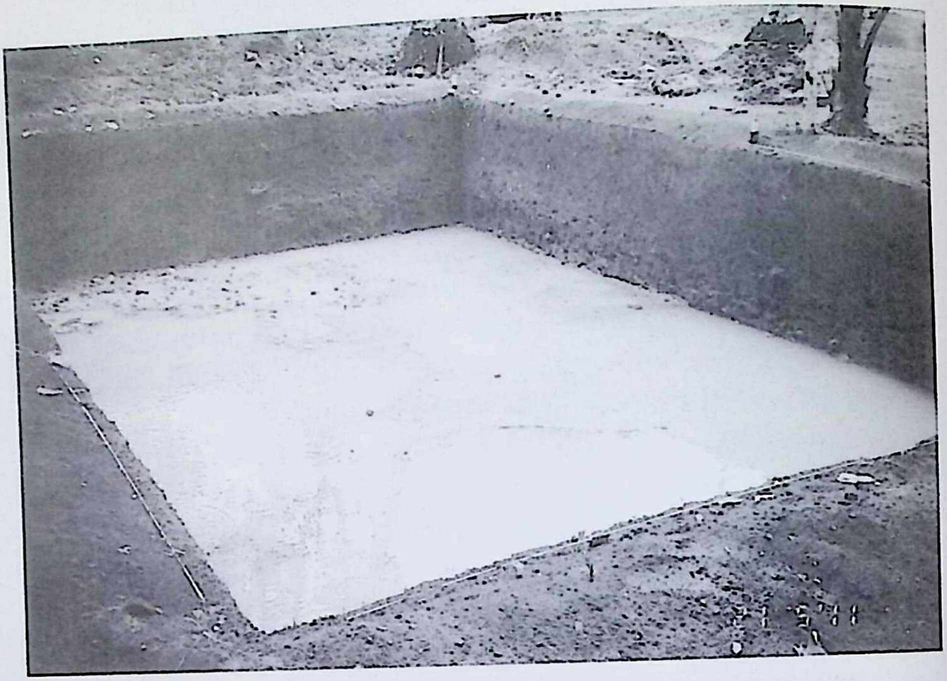


Fig 14 : Pattanam - Empty trench which claims a civilization

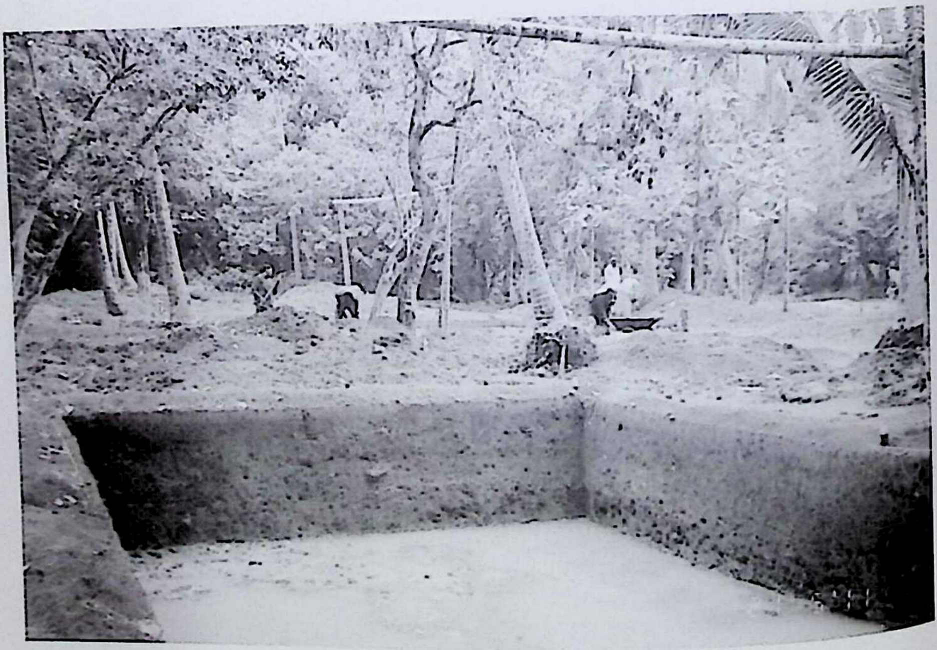


Fig 15 : Pattanam - Empty trench which claims remains of a township

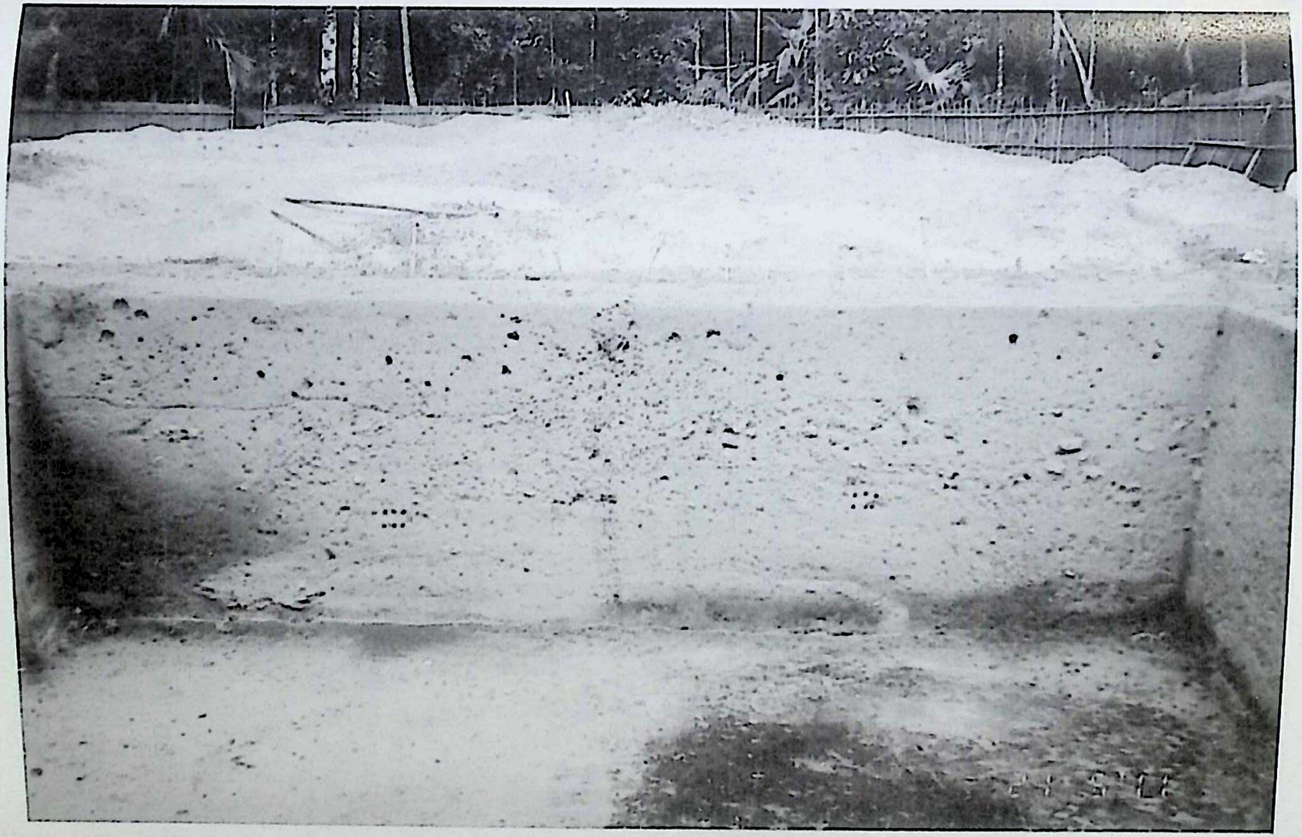


Fig 16 : Pattanam - Empty trench which claims urban architectural features

KCHR should understand that any site it digs with Euro American collaboration cannot be designated a city. There are precursors to urbanism in Early Historic India evident in the sites, such as immense size, internal planning, public architecture, settlement hierarchies, enclosing walls, script, craft specialization, long distance trade, subsistence strategies and population growth. The physical magnitude of the settlement is a major factor in claiming an urban character. KCHR should also remember that a periphery of 3-4 miles applicable to the walled enclosure was common for major settlements in India during the Early Historical Period.

It is in this context that Professor MGS Narayanan seriously observed that only a small compound has been excavated at Pattanam.[58] Sites like Mohenjo Daro and Arikamedu stretch across acres. There should be proper exploration by trained archaeologists of the ASI. Marine archaeology experts should also be called in to examine the site as observed by Professor Narayanan who was a former chairman of ICHR.

KCHR should understand that any site it digs with Euro American collaboration cannot be designated a city. There are precursors to urbanism in Early Historic India evident in the sites, such as immense size, internal planning, public architecture, settlement hierarchies, enclosing walls, script, craft specialization, long distance trade, subsistence strategies and population growth.

Professor Romila Thapar is a patron of Muziris Heritage Project and Pattanam excavations. But she is yet unwilling to acknowledge Pattanam either as an urban complex or a warehouse. On September 2013 at Thiruvananthapuram, while being silent on the status of Pattanam as an urban site, she cautiously observed that the nature of the settlement at Pattanam

---

58. The Hindu, May 24, 2013, More studies needed at Pattanam, MGS Narayanan.

59. The Hindu September 13, 2013, Pattanam throws open many questions: Romila Thapar.

was one to be explored. *"Whether it was just a warehouse, or where goods were produced for trade, or whether it was a port or a site that had sequential historical development – were all matters of intrigue"* according to Professor Thapar after nearly ten years of excavations.[59]

Water logged deposits are preserved in urban sites due to intensive occupation resulting in a rapid build up of occupation debris, and partly because of the rising water table and flooding depending on the proximity of sites to rivers. These issues have not been mentioned in Pattanam reports.

Nothing else is needed to understand how KCHR looks at architectural remains unearthed at Pattanam and interprets it before the public. Dr.Cherian highlighted Pattanam as the first trade emporium. He observed:

"Advanced skills in metallurgy, cotton weaving and production of personal adornment items in gold, stones and glass etc made Pattanam (Muziris) the 'first trade emporium' which probably was at par with today's Shanghai, London or New York,".[60]

There is no reference to an art tradition at Pattanam which claims that its antiquity goes back to Pre Mauryan Period. The art tradition of Early Historic India is essentially urban. F.R.Allchin provides convincing evidence, and argues that during Mauryan Period, the total settlement hierarchy not only showed an expanding number of larger settlements, but also witnessed the emergence of distinct network of settlements with groupings, clustering around the major cities.[61] How did this growth and expansion in other parts of India influence Pattanam which is claimed by KCHR as an urban site? Dilip Chakrabarti has observed that except few sites, most of the early historic urban centres in India were religious centres in some form with stupas, monasteries and temples.[62]

---

60. Deccan Chronicle December 28, 2015 Pattanam among top field projects
61. F.R.Allchin 1995 The Mauryan State and Empire in The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia.Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
62. Dilip Chakrabarty 1997.The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities.Oxford: Oxford University Press

KCHR is primarily interested only in establishing coastal links of Pattanam with Red Sea and Mediterranean region. It is absolutely silent on extensive Buddhist viharas recently excavated along trans peninsular routes linking Deccan and central India with Krishna valley and further south into west coast region. Few Buddhist images have been reported from South Kerala. KCHR has conveniently kept aside archaeological evidence that establish strong links between Buddhism and trade centres in southern India. This link is more evident from recently reported Buddhist viharas such as Nelakondapalle in Khammam district, south east end of Nagarjunakonda hills, Vaikunthapuram in Amaravati region, Gummadiduru in Krishna district, Adurru in Mamidikudurumandal, all in Andhra and Sannati in Karnataka. Apart from stone sculptures, more than 400 Buddhist bronzes have been unearthed in Tamil Nadu. Nagapattinam has a rich Buddhist legacy followed by Pallavanesvaram at Kaveripattinam in Tamil Nadu which have been reported recently. More than 350 images are from the ancient port of Nagapattinam. The discovery of a large number of 13th century Buddhist bronzes from this site shows that this historic city was an active Buddhist centre during the Chola Period. The sculptures of Thiyaganur also provide convincing evidence. It seems that KCHR aims to delink this rich internal archaeological evidence and connect Pattanam exclusively with Mediterranean region.

In 2011, KCHR claimed discovery of pot rim with Tamil Brahmi script from Pattanam. P.J.Cherian contended that it was for the first time that direct evidence relating to a religious system or faith has been discovered in Kerala, and the potsherd belonged to a Jaina monk. Iravatham Mahadevan, scholar in Tamil Brahmi script remarked that the discovery denotes Jaina system in the west coast from second century BC. [63][64]. Contrary to the earlier observations

---

63. The Hindu March 14, 2011, Tamil-Brahmi script found at Pattanam in Kerala
64. Pattanam Excavations 2011, Fifth Season Field Report. Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR
65. P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014, Unearthing Pattanam—Histories,Cultures Crossings. New Delhi: National Museum and KCHR

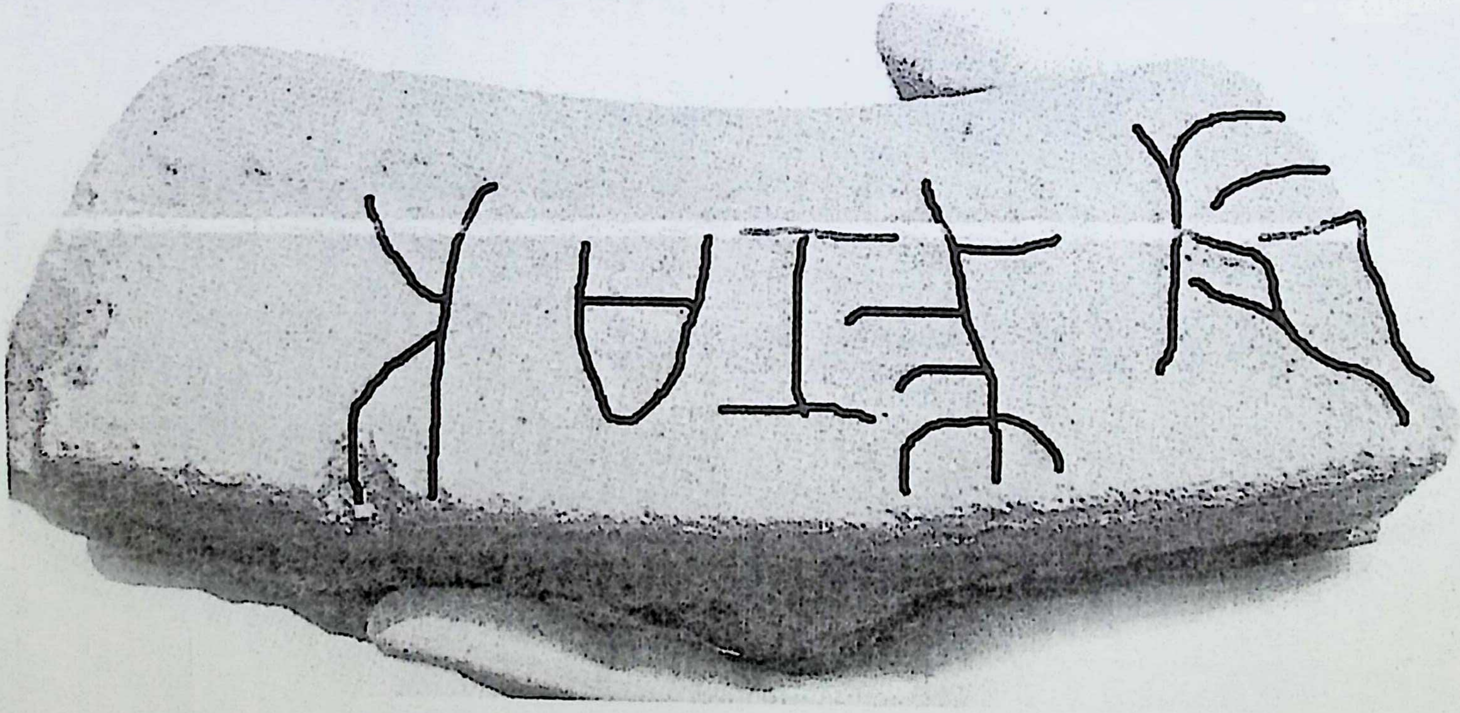


Fig 17 : Tamil - Brahmi Script at Pattanam

Courtesy : The Hindu March 14, 2011

in 2011, in 2014, KCHR asserted that evidence of religious practices were not found at Pattanam.[65] Later, neither Iravatham Mahadevan nor any epigraphist came forward to confirm the validity of the Tamil Brahmi inscribed potsherd at Pattanam (Fig. 17).

KCHR has either cleverly kept aside or is ignorant of the fact that there are a large number of Jaina sites such as Jainamedu, Mundur, Kinalur, Ganapati Vattom, Sulthan Bathery, Ponnmudikkotta, Kalpetta, Venniyodu, Manjeswar and Bangra Manjeswar, in Palakkad, Wynad and also Kasargode districts of north Kerala. They include rock cut cave temples, structural temples as well as stone and metal images. There is a Jaina rock cut cave at Kallil in Ernakulam. The rock shelter at Tiruchcharanattumalai near Chitral in present Kanyakumari district bordering Kerala also has a number of tirtankara figures (Figs. 18-22). Among the reliefs, the most important are *Parsvanatha, Mahavira, Padmavati* and *Ambika*, the last seated on the lion. Two noteworthy figures of *Parsvanatha* and *Mahavira* have been recovered from the site of Sakkiyar at Godapuram near Alattur in Palakkad district. They are currently preserved in Thrishur Museum. Most of these sites are located along trade routes linking Kerala with Madurai—Coimbatore region. It is thus not for the first time that direct evidence of a religious system has been discovered in Kerala as asserted by the KCHR. But KCHR has conveniently veiled these facts on Jaina remains since they are interested in highlighting only Roman trade and truncating history of internal trade in Kerala.

Roman coins found in India date from second/first centuries BC to the fifth century AD and there are nearly 170 recorded finds spread over 130 sites, with a concentration in the Krishna valley in Andhra and the Coimbatore region in Tamilnadu. The distribution pattern of these coins is significant, as few have been found in archaeological excavations. No coins have been reported from Pattanam which is designated by KCHR as a trade emporium and hub with trans oceanic network, especially with Rome.

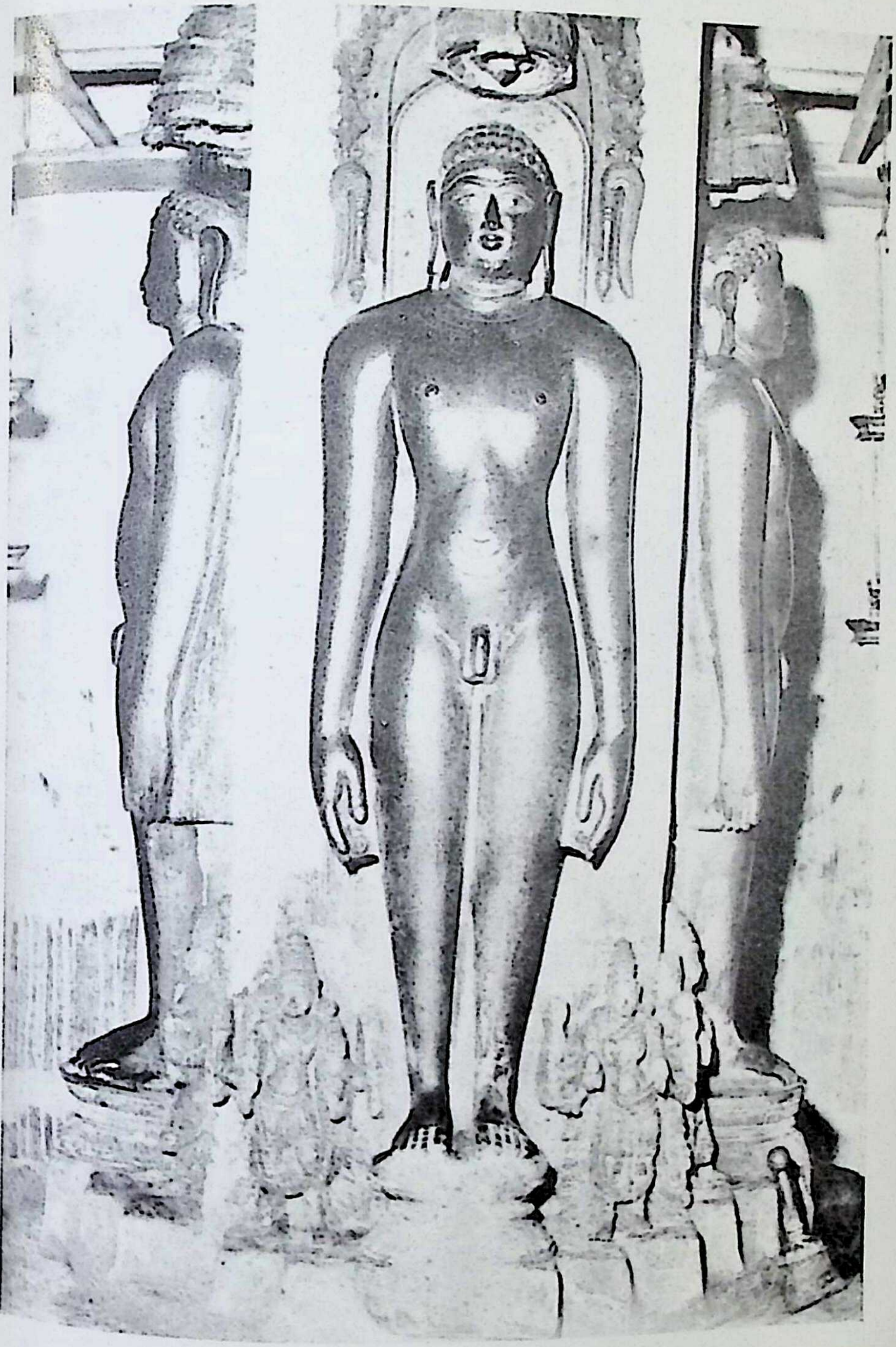


Fig 18 : Chaturmugha Digambara –Manjeswaram, 12th century AD

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

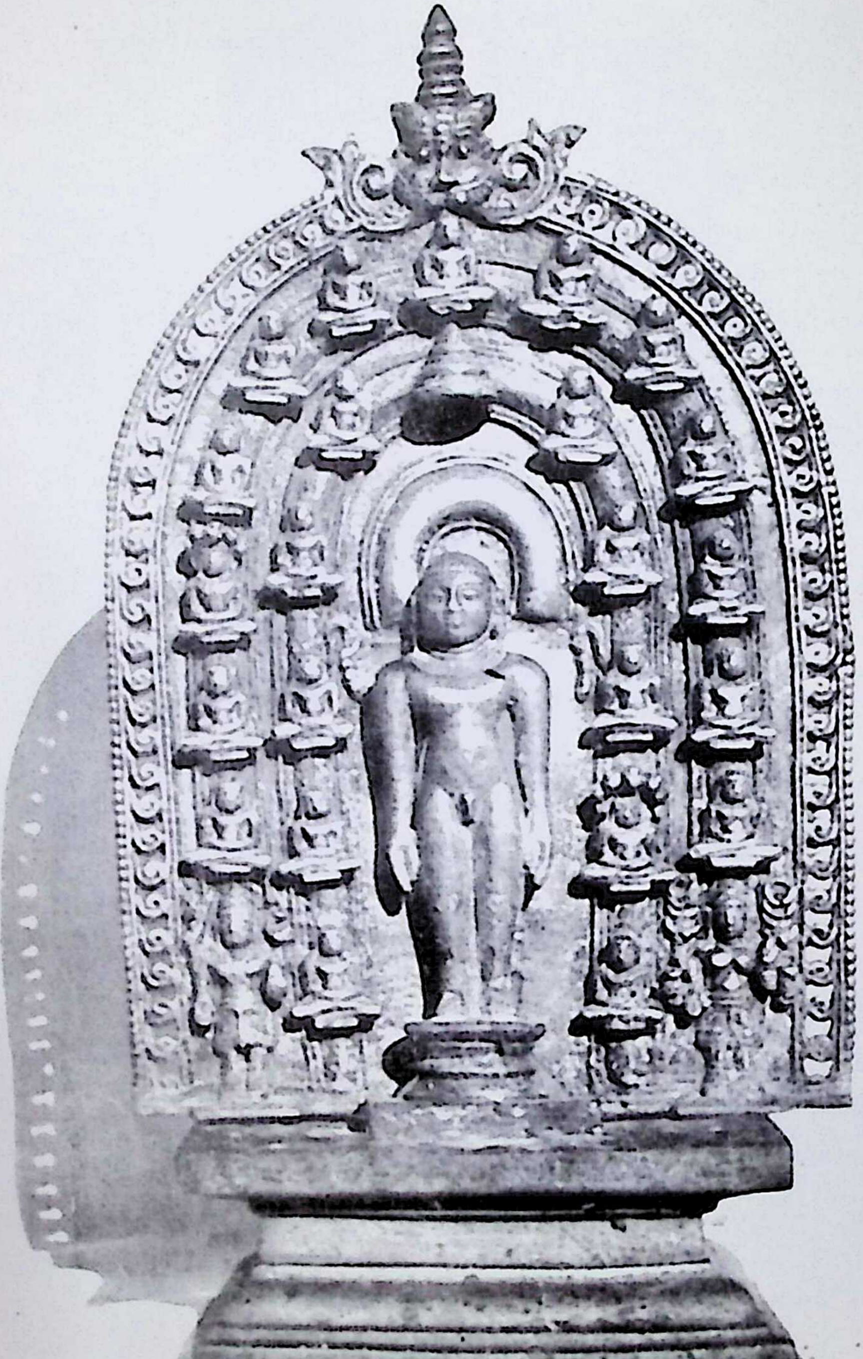


Fig 19 : Mahavira-Manjeswaram, 12th century AD

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

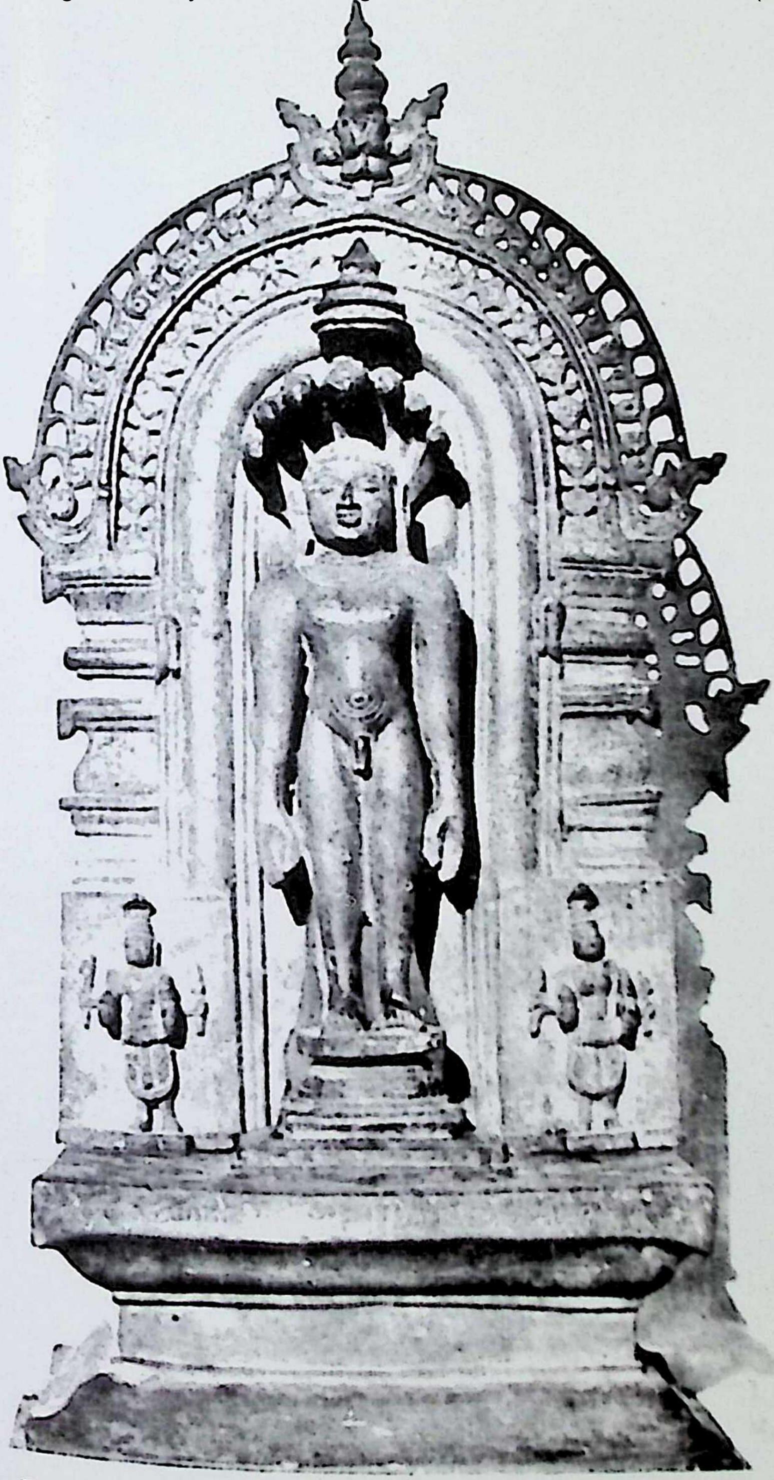


Fig 20 : Parsvanatha Thirthankara –Manjeswaram, 12th century AD

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

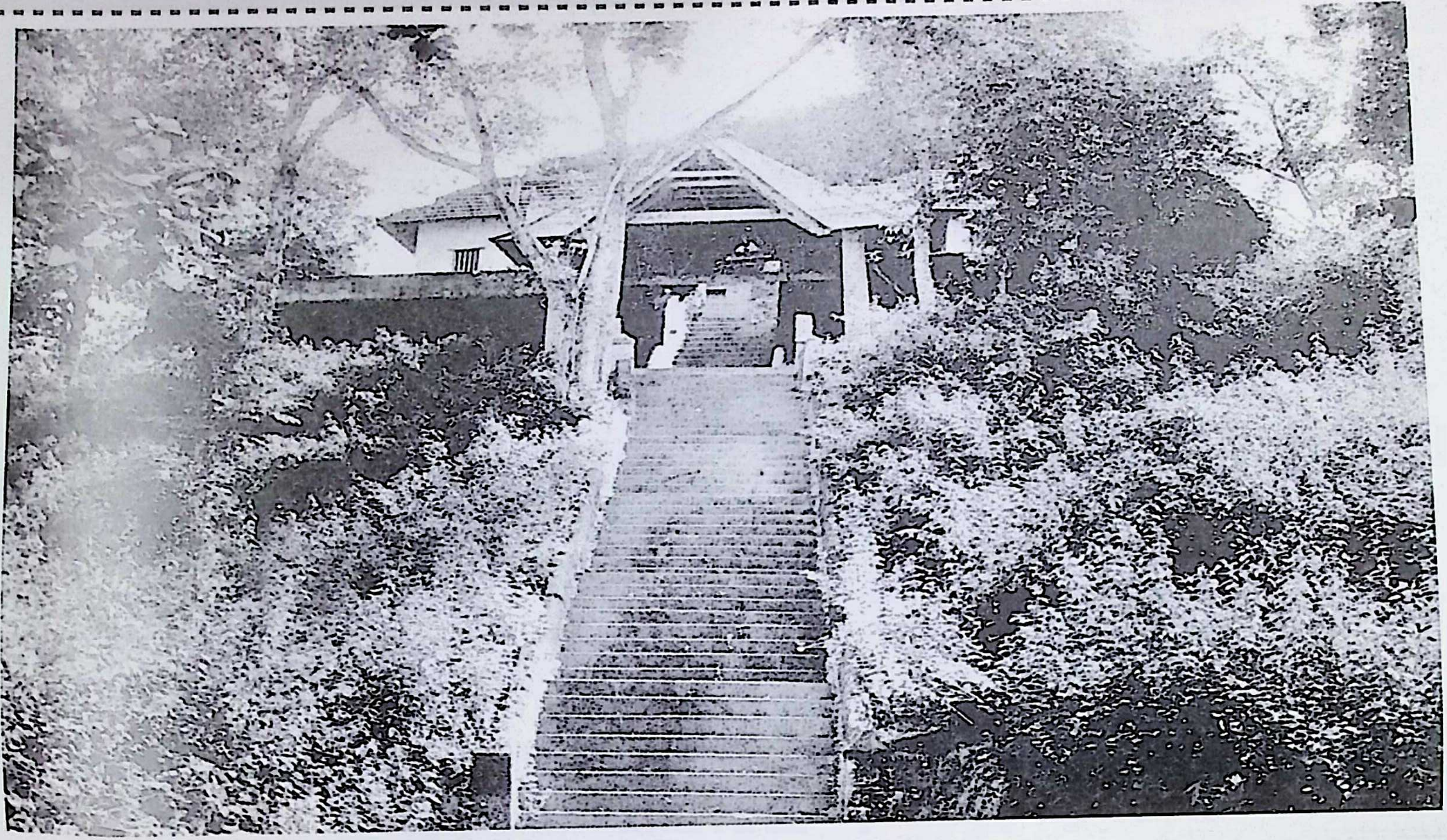


Fig 21 : Rock cut Cave –Kallil

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

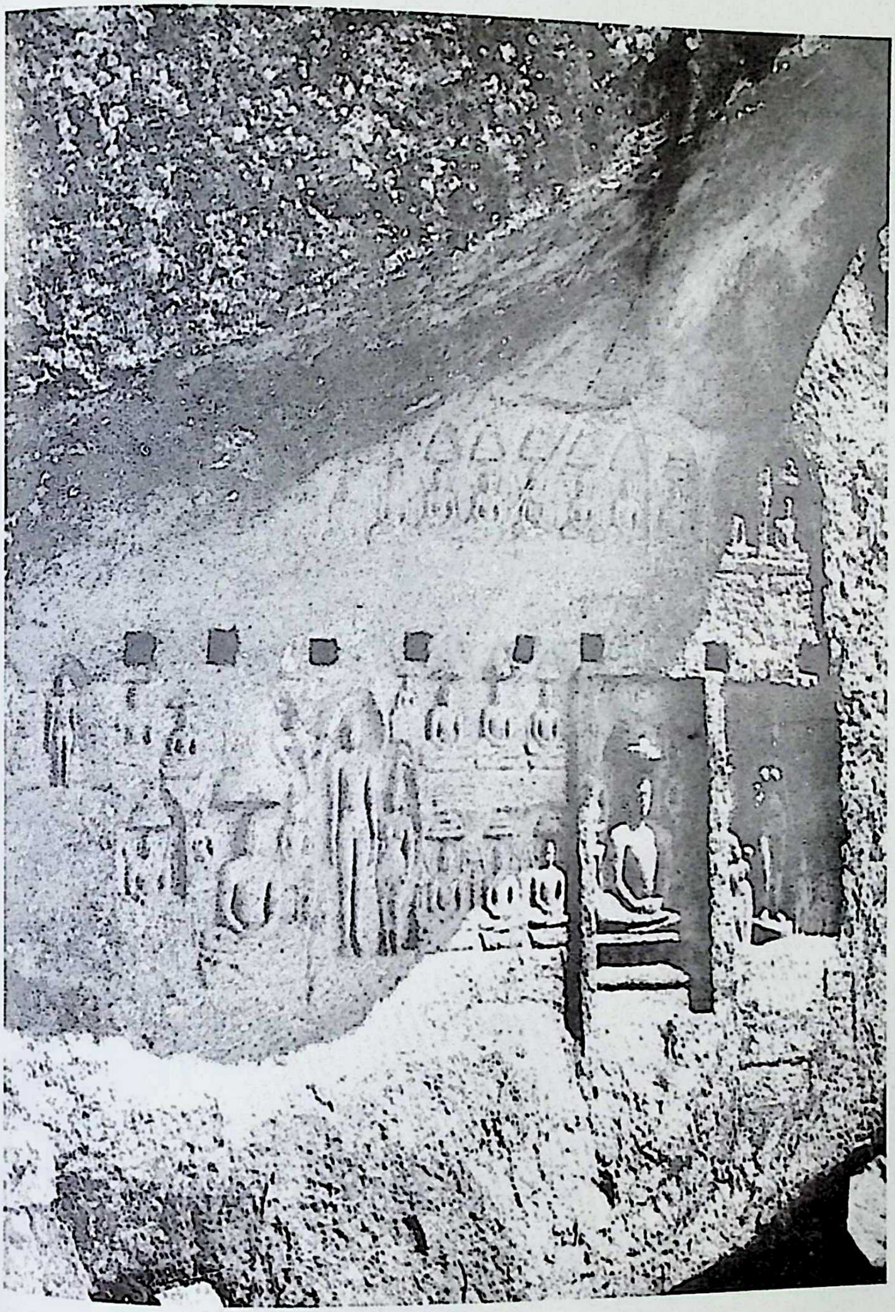


Fig 22 : Jain Sculptures –Chitaral Hill, 10th century A D

Courtesy : Kramrisch et.al 1970

13

Structural Remains Obscured

It is not that a village may not have a defensive palisade, but the city ramparts which have been excavated suggest by their massiveness, constructional care and elaborately laid out gateways, bastions, moats and other defensive measures, that they were meant to defend and mark out a type of settlement whose significance in the social, political and economic landscape was far greater than that of a village.

D.K.Chakrabarti 1997

Colonial observations on India's past have either been discarded or proved insignificant by later archaeological excavations. Mortimer Wheeler's earlier claims of dyeing vats and ware house facilities at Arikamedu have been proved weak by recent excavations. The constructions at Arikamedu were rather shoddy with poor mortar used between bricks. Vimala Begley observed in 1996 that the brick structures and ring wells found *in situ* rested on very unstable sandy foundations [66].

It has been argued by the KCHR during 2007- 2008 [67], 2009 [68] and 2010 [69] that urban multicultural and maritime features are the principal attributes of Pattanam. The brick house comparable to a ware house, exposed near the wharf in trench PTO7III included a platform (006) with postholes (67 in number) and brick walls belonging to at least three different phases. The architectural features included brick walls, clay platforms and multiple layers of floor and storage jars in trenches PTO711 and PTO7I suggest residential context. According to KCHR in trench PTO8IX a brick structure with three enclosures of residential or commercial use was identified. KCHR has not specified whether burnt or unburnt bricks were used at Pattanam. It seems they are unclear on the bricks.

---

[66] Vimala Begley 1996. Changing Perceptions of Arikamedu, in The Ancient Port of Arikamedu—New Excavations and Researches 1989—1992 Vol 1 (Vimala Begley et.al.Eds.) Pondicherry:

[67] P.J.Cherian 2007-08.Muziris Heritage Project and the Archaeological Research at Pattanam:An Overview.Paper at International Seminar on Muziris Heritage Project, Thiruvananthapuram

At the annual conference of Indian Archaeological Society in 2011, at Thiruvananthapuram, following a debate in the context of paper presentation, Dr.P.J.Cherian stated that the structural remains at Pattanamhas been demolished and carried away by local residents and KCHR has currently nothing to do with the archaeological site which has been abandoned after work.

Evidence of floods has not been recorded from the various levels of the excavated area at Pattanam. KCHR is silent on this aspect. There is no mention of any silt deposit overlying any strata at Pattanam which could have possibly occurred due to heavy monsoon flooding. There is no evidence for paved floors or drainage outlets. Even, earliest phase of occupation having a deposit of fair thickness could be possibly washed away by a flood which is not recorded at Pattanam. There is no evidence of flood management such as raised platforms, walls or fortifications at the site. Further, there was clay at bottom layer and no laterite formation. The poor

---

68. P.J.Cherian, K.P.Shajan and V.Selvakumar 2009.The Ancient Port of Muziris : Evidence on Indian Ocean Exchanges from Pattanam, Kerala India. Paper Presented at the Ancient Indian Ocean Corridors Conference at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford

69. P.J.Cherian 2009-10.Pattanam to Challenge Eurocentric Notions and help Rewrite the History of Indian Ocean Trade in Journal of Indian Ocean Archaeology

quality brick structures unearthed at Pattanam rested on very unstable sandy foundations. Such poor constructions, if belonging to the Early Period, could not have withstood the onslaught of heavy monsoons and torrential floods which still occur in Pattanam.

Surprisingly when we visited the site, no such brick structures or enclosures were noticed. The trenches remained empty. When strong objections were raised on claims of imagined structures at the site by historians, the excavator took a retreat and indirectly admitted that "*curiously, while large collection of artifacts were found (at Pattanam) no remnants of major structures were discovered.*" [70] Later at the annual conference of Indian Archaeological Society in 2011, at Thiruvananthapuram, following a debate in the context of paper presentation, Dr.P.J.Cherian stated that the structural remains at Pattanam has been demolished and carried away by local residents and KCHR has currently nothing to do with the archaeological site which has been abandoned after work.

---

70. The Hindu, June 12, 2011- Pattanam finds throw more light on early maritime trade

14

Faux Contentions

The Early Historical Period was marked by significant changes in the cultural style of the people—introduction of coinage which facilitated trade, highways which promoted long distance communication and commerce, extensive use of iron, structures of kiln burnt bricks, virtually forgotten after Harappan culture and above all the origin of cities, many of them strongly fortified, some at the time of their very establishment and others later on.

A.Ghosh 1989

Bricks have been extensively used in India for fortification during Early Historical Period. Soil used for making bricks consists of clay, quartz, mica feldspar, calcite and kaolinite. Property of fine clay depends on its impurities. Usually large rectangular bricks were used in early India.

The dimension of bricks used in south India during various periods have been studied earlier. There are burnt brick fortifications at Sannati and Banavasi in Karnataka dating to 3rd Century BCE. Bricks were also used as in Vadgaon-Madhavpur (Period III) also in Karnataka. Bricks were used at Amaravati, Nagarjunakonda and Satanikota in Andhra dated between 3rd Century BC to 3rd Century AD. Korkai, Karaikadu and Kaveripattinam in Tamil Nadu are other sites where bricks have been extensively used for construction. The brick structures recently unearthed from Keezhadi in Madurai are similar to those found in Arikamedu and Kaveripattinam. Each brick is 36 cm long, 24 cm wide and 6 cm thick.

At Arikamedu, two brick built-rectangular tanks perpendicular to each other were found near the river front and resting on the natural sandy soil. K.V.Raman observed in 1991 that the brick sizes are comparable to those found in the earliest structural levels of Wheeler's AK II (Two sizes: 44 x 28 x 6 cm and 35 x 24 x 6 cm).[71]

The dimension of bricks at Arikamedu at the early phase of habitation (33.7 x 23. 0 x 6.8 cm) tally bricks from Tamluk(Period III) and Chandraketugarh.

KCHR makes a vague observation that the size of brick and brick fragments at Pattanam resembles those found elsewhere in India.[72] They have not given a comparison of bricks from Pattanam from other sites and ports in Peninsular India or elsewhere. KCHR has not specified whether burnt or unburnt bricks were used at Pattanam.

KCHR is silent on the material used for foundations of the brick wall if they existed. The excavation trenches at Pattanam collapsed in 2010, since there was clay at bottom layer and no laterite formation or any thick soil·

Plaster is used for coating walls while mortar is the binding material between brick or stone. Fine plastering was done at Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda in Andhra. In the Chola Period, in the Kaveri region, rich lime containing calcium oxide upto 66% is used for finished plaster with small quantity of gypsum associated with it.[73] But KCHR cannot provide an answer on bricks and mortar at Pattanam despite its fictious claims of Pattanam as a city and civilization.

---

[71] K.V.Raman 1991.Roman Contacts with Tamil Nadu (Southeastern India)—Recent Findings. Paper Presented At UNESCO Silk Road Maritime Routes Seminar ,Bangkok

[72] K.P.Shajan ,V.Selvakumar and Roberta Tomber 2005 Was Pattanam Ancient Muziris? in Man and Environment Vol XXX No 2

[73] A.Ghosh 1989.An Encyclopeadia on Indian Archaeology Vol I .Delhi: Munshiram

15

Identifying a Wharf and a Canoe

The onshore excavation at Kilaiyur(Tamil Nadu) brought to light an I— shaped brick wharf in the ancient channel of the river Kaveri, which is now buried under 2m thick sediment.The structure has two brick platforms, between which was built a drain for the flow of water.Thick wooden posts were provided for anchoring boats or to support a wooden super structure.

S.R.Rao 2001

The river deltas of India have developed navigation, and the distributaries associated with estuarine mouths have promoted the growth of many ports. Although there are no vast deltas in western coast, it is broken and has facilitated the growth of numerous ports especially in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka regions. Sea ports in eastern coastline of India are located at river mouths or large fertile outlets to the sea. These include the Gangetic delta, the Krishna and Godavari deltas of Andhra Pradesh, the Coromandel coast, and the region between the rivers Godavari and Mahanadi.

Wharfs unearthed in Indian sites have been clearly described. The wharf at Kaveripattinam consist of two platforms between which runs a channel flanked by two rows of wooden posts meant for anchoring boats (Fig. 23). The brick wharf at Rajbandar port at Elephanta in Maharashtra was discovered beneath 3m thick debris sealing the structure.It is a rectangular structure 16 m long,

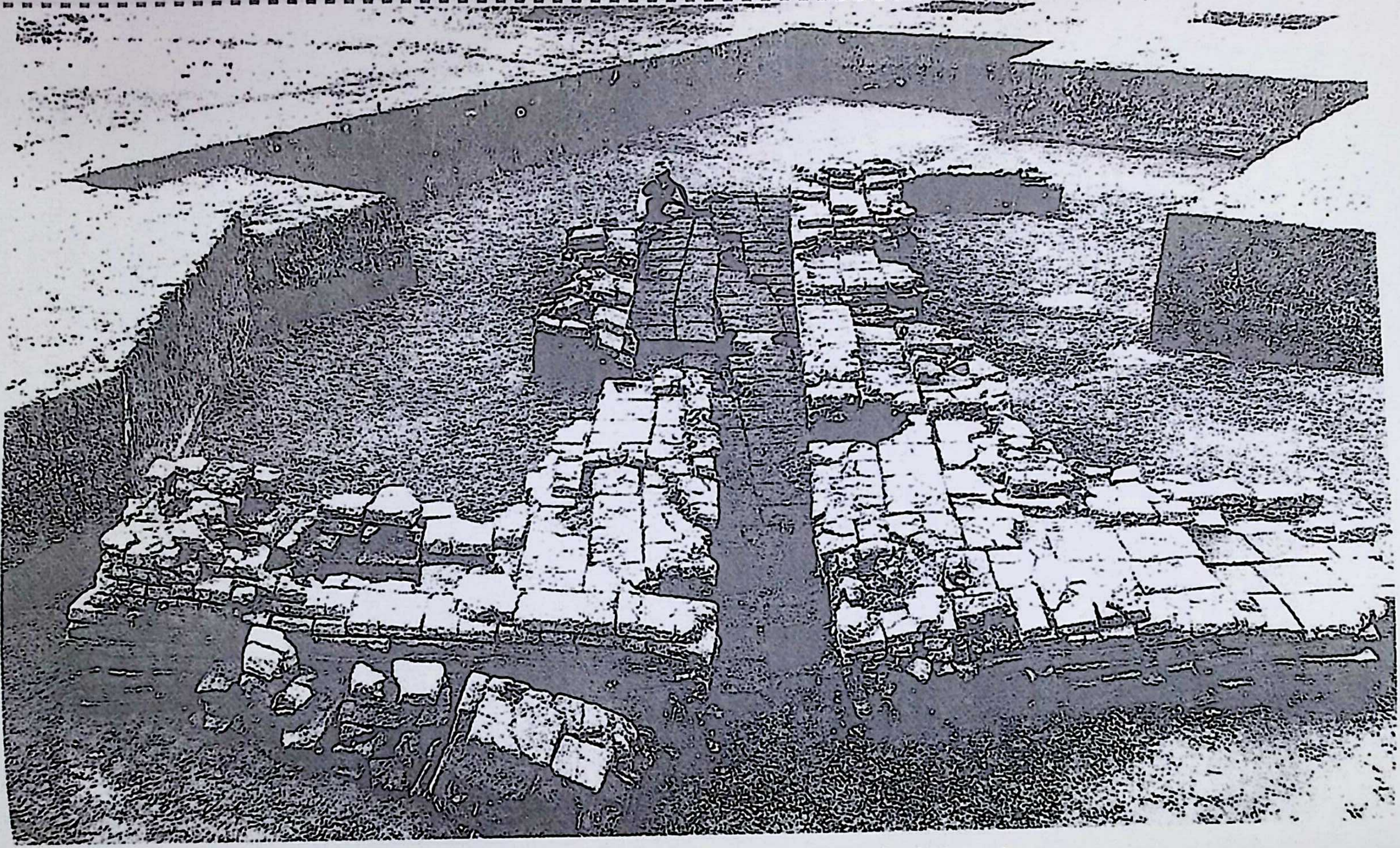


Fig 23 : Wharf at Kilaiyur Palaeo channel of Kaveri

Courtesy : S R Rao 2001

13 m wide and 3.5 m high designed to withstand water thrust. However, the wharf claimed to have been found at Pattanam is not described as at Kaveripattinam or Rajbandhar. KCHR argues that the exposed part of the wharf at Pattanam is 6m long and 7.30m thick at a depth of 245cm in Early Historic layers.[74] (Fig. 24)

Recent studies in Oxford have however declined to include Pattanam in their list of maritime Indian sites. For instance, Alexis Castambis, Ben Ford and Donny L.Hamilton from Oxford who have recently worked on maritime activity in India are silent on Pattanam wharf.[75]

KCHR claims that the canoe found at Pattanam can be the earliest known canoe in India.[76]. The canoe is also designated by KCHR as "*the earliest watercraft excavated from an archaeological context in India*"[77].

Alexis Castambis and his team are silent on Pattanam canoe, the earliest known in India as claimed by KCHR. KCHR has collaborated with Oxford in Pattanam excavations and it is quite unbelievable that the Oxford people have no knowledge on Pattanam canoe claimed to be the earliest known in India. Castambis and his colleagues have referred to various port sites in Indian coast such as Dwaraka, Vijaydurg, Dabhol, Somnath, Myani, Visawada, and Ghogha which were important during Early and Medieval Periods.

Maritime archaeological studies confirm that stone weight anchors were the earliest device to fasten vessels in water. Stone weight anchors of different shapes and sizes were developed and used during different periods. Alexis Castambis has highlighted stone anchors found at various sites along Indian coasts such as Dwaraka, Bet Dwaraka, Miyani, Visawada, Kindar Kheda, Srinagar, Ghumli and Somnath. Various port sites in Tamil Nadu and Orissa

---

74.P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014, Unearthing Pattanam –Histories, Cultures and Crossings. National Museum, KCHR and Sahapedia

75. Alexis Castambis, Ben Ford and Donny L.Hamilton 2011, The Oxford Handbook of Marine Archaeology . Oxford:

76. The Hindu January 9, 2008, Study points to 500 BC Kerala maritime activity

77. Frontline Volume 27 - Issue 08 April. 10-23, 2010, Muziris at Last

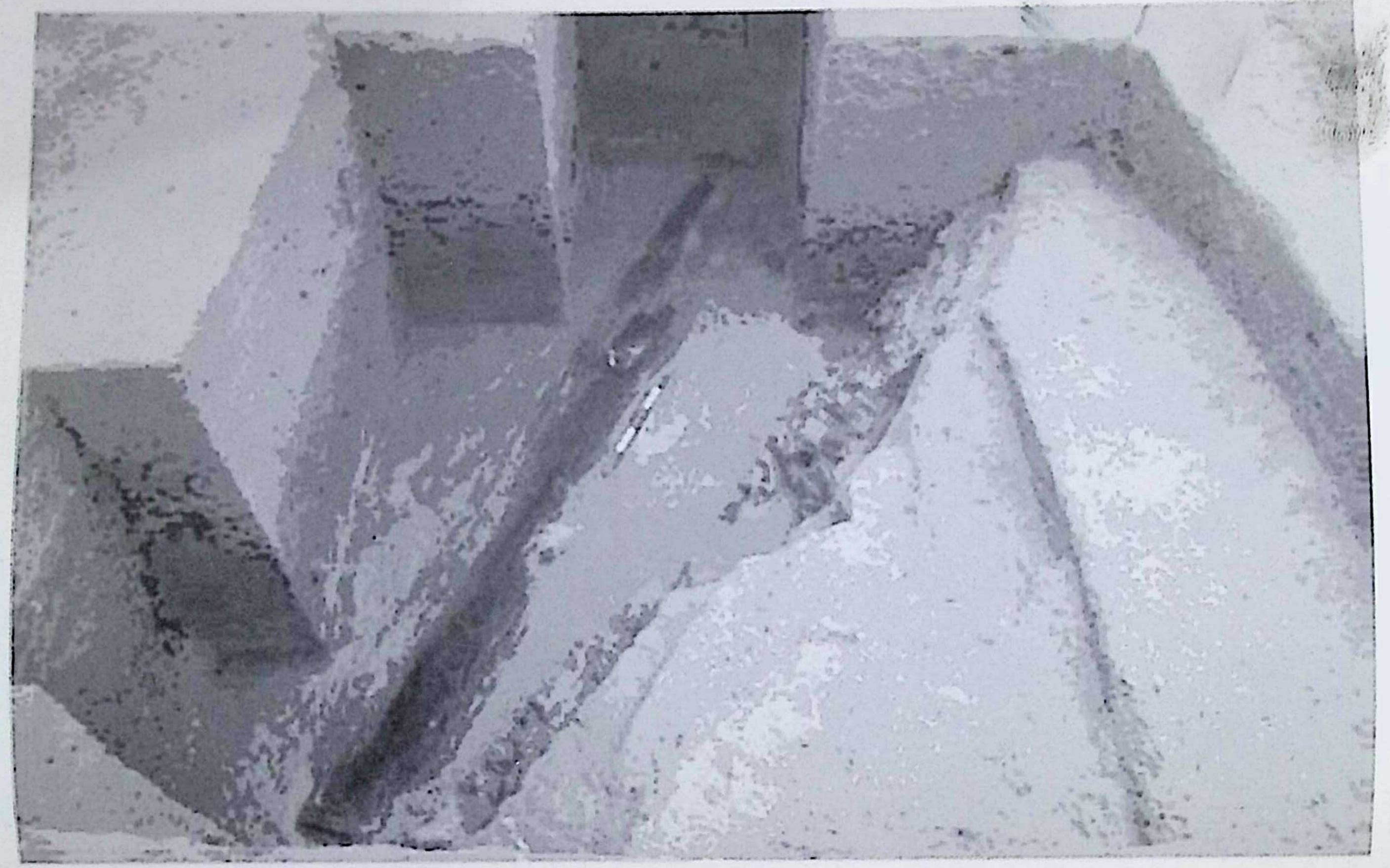


Fig 24 : Supposed Wharf at Pattanam

in eastern coast of India have also been discussed. A number of stone anchors were found in western coast from Mul Dwarka, Chhara and Kanjetar in Gujarat. Other than Gujarat, Goa and Maharashtra, in western coast, there is only one site in Kerala where a stone anchor has been reported by Castambis. It is at Kannur in north Malabar. Pattanam has been totally ignored since stone anchors have not been recovered from the site.

Alexis and others have also highlighted that sea level has fluctuated several times, 2m and 6m, during Holocene in east and west coasts of India. Mahabalipuram has been badly affected by erosion. Such studies have not been made at Pattanam.

KCHR claims to have recovered bollard samples/ wooden pegs from Pattanam in association with the wharf.[78] [79]Wooden pegs are commonly found in lower Periyar basin where Pattanam is located. They were carried away and buried beneath the sand by torrential floods during monsoons. Geologists who have studied this region have observed that sudden and heavy siltation and blockage of the palaeodeltas have resulted in the present day sandy flats with subterranean carbonised wood.[80]

In Kerala, canoe was not much used in transporting cargo. We have to look into the ethnographic tradition of boat building in Kerala. Ship building was prominent in Malabar due to availability of fine timber in the forest region. Raft, plank built, plank built (stitched), plank built (sewn and nailed), log boats (scooped out from middle of a single log of wood) and extended log boats are traditional boats manufactured in Malabar. Raft is made of a number of roughly shaped logs fastened together in order to float down a river or to serve as a boat. Except extended log boat, all other boats are used for transporting cargo. Beypore at Chaliyar basin in Kozhikkode is an important boat building centre in the west coast

---

78. The Hindu January 9, 2008, Study points to 500 BC Kerala maritime activity
79. The Hindu June 18, 2010, P.J.Cherian -The tales that potsherds tell at Pattanam
80. T.Mathai and S.B.Nair 1988. Stages in the Emergence of the Cochin – Kodungallur Coast—Evidence for the Interaction of Marine and Fluvial Processes.Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy 54, A, No 3.

of India. Uru, Sambuk, Padava, Kotia and Pattemar are some of the important watercrafts built at Beypore.The sewn plank dhow was used from 1700AD and became common in Western Indian Ocean.The bottom of Pattamar vessels are sheathed with lime.[81][82][83][84][85][86][87][88] Other major boat building sites in Malabar include Valarpattanam, Irukkur, Tellicherry, Vadakara and Kochi.

The canoe at Pattanam raises a serious question in the environmental context.How did such a small vessel carry cargo withstanding torrential rains and floods in the past?

Eivind Heldaas Seland argues in 2014 that it is a log boat that was found at Pattanam[89].Is it a log boat or canoe found by KCHR? It seems that the KCHR is unable to differentiate between a canoe and logboat.

---

81. V.Kunhalli 1993.Ship building at Beypore: a study in materials, workers and technology in Maritime Archaeology 4
82. Himanshu Prabha Ray 2003 The Archaeology of Sea faring in Ancient South Asia.Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
83. Kenneth McPherson 2004. The Indian Ocean—A History of People and the Sea in Maritime India. New Delhi: Oxford:
84. Peter Boomgard 1998. The VOC Trade in Forest Products in the Seventeenth Century in Nature and the Orient (R.H.Grove, V.Damodar and Satpal Sangwan eds.) New Delhi : Oxford
85. George Goldsmith Carter 1969. Sailing Ships and Sailing Crafts. London: Paul Hamlyn
86. D.P.Agrawal and Lalit Tiwari 2002 .Ancient Ship-Building & Maritime Trade. Infinity Foundation
87. A. P. Greeshmalatha and G. Victor Rajamanickam. 1993. An analysis of different types of traditional coastal vessels along the Kerala Coast. Journal of Marine Archaeology 4
88. J. Hornell 1920. The origin and ethnological significance of Indian boat designs. Memoirs of the Asiatic Society of Bengal 7(3)
89. Eivind Heldaas Seland 2014.Archaeology of Trade in the Western Indian Ocean, 300 BC–AD 700. Journal of Archaeological Research December 2014, Volume 22, Issue 4, pp 367-402

16

Specious Metallurgy

Numerous bands of iron ore (magnetite) varying in strike length from a few metres to a few km have been reported from charnockite and gneissic rocks by several workers. The important bands are those around Kozhikkode town, and Nilambur-Manjeri area in Malappuram district.

Geology and Mineral Resources of Kerala- Geological Survey of India May 2005

KCHR puts forward few iron slags and asserts that iron metallurgy seems to have been practiced at Pattanam. KCHR even claims copper smelting at the site.They contend that '*the immediate hinterlands of Pattanam' are rich in lateritic iron ores and it explains the easy availability of the raw material.*[90] KCHR cannot locate regions which seems to have supplied iron ores to Pattanam. They do not mention even distant regions which might have supplied iron.The immediate hinterlands of Pattanam supplied iron is only a vague observation. KCHR cannot provide evidences of iron furnaces from Pattanam excavation. They do not even specify whether the iron slags have undergone secondary smelting.

Five iron ore deposits of banded magnetite quartzite type have been identified in Kozhikode District and one in Malappuram District by the Department of Mining and Geology. Geological Survey of India/Department of Mining and Geology, National

---

[90] P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014.Unearthing Pattanam –Histories, Cultures and Crossings. National Museum, KCHR andSahapedia

Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and United Nations assisted Kerala Mineral Exploration & Development Project have explored the deposits of iron ores in these areas. These deposits are estimated to contain 84 million tonnes of reserve (geological reserves) with iron content varying from 32 to 41 percent. [91] The report does not mention iron deposits either in Ernakulam district where Pattanam is located, nor in the immediate hinterlands of Pattanam. A false and misleading claim has been made by the KCHR.

Directorate of Mining and Geology, Kerala carried out exploration in 625 sq. km. area of lateritic plateaus in Kasargod and also Kannur districts in north Malabar. They are nearly 300 kms away from Pattanam.[92] Iron ore has been reported from Malappuram, Palakkad and Kozhikkode districts in Malabar.[93] This explains why there is a huge concentration of Megalithic Iron Age sites in these districts. Idukki is the only district that has reported iron ore in south Kerala.Virtually there is no iron ore in Ernakulam district which fractures the claim by KCHR.

KCHR does not attempt a comparative analysis of the iron tools recovered from Pattanam with those from Iron Age/ Megalithic sites in Periyar basin. There are few sites in Periyar basin which have yielded iron tools of the Megalithic Period. Evidence of copper in Kerala is very less as the metal is not available in the region. KCHR should have traced the source of copper found at Pattanam .

KCHR should understand the iron analysis conducted from sites such as Hallur and Komaranahalli in Karnataka and Veerapuram and Ramapuram in Andhra. Komaranahalli has given TL dates in the 12th – 15th century BCE, while the radiocarbon dates for early Iron Age sites of Veerapuram and Ramapuram are 16th – 11th century BCE.

---

[91] Department of Mining and Geology-Government of Kerala http://www.dmg.kerala.gov.in/index.php Accessed on 30-9-2016

[92] Indian Minerals Yearbook 2013 (Part- III : Mineral Reviews) 52nd Edition LATERITE, Government of India Ministry of Mines , Indian Bureau of Mines

[93] Geological Survey of India Miscellaneous Publication No. 30, May 2005 Geology and Mineral Resources of the States of India Part IX – Kerala

17

Ambiguous Claims

Beads of sapphire, beryl, agate,carnelian, amathyst, lapiz lazuli, jasper, garnet, soap stone, quartz, onyx, cat eye etc found in different manufacturing stages (finished, semi finished, polished, unpolished, drilled and undrilled condition) in the excavation at Kodumanal stand as testimony to their production.

K.Rajan 2002

The megalithic site of Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu has yielded numerous beads which were found in different manufacturing stages— finished, semi finished, polished, unpolished, drilled and undrilled. It stands as testimony for Kodumanal as a bead making centre like Arikamedu. Excavation in 1988 at Karaikkadu in Arcot district of Tamil Nadu by the University of Madras brought to light an impressive brick structure associated with the bead-making workshop. A number of beads of semi-precious stones in different stages of manufacture as well as the raw materials in lumps were found suggesting the existence of a working site.

At Pattanam the stone beads are not marked by periods since the site has no stratigraphy. There are no reference in reports regarding the manufacture of stone beads which involve a series of techniques such as tinting of stones, fashioning of the core, polishing, cementing, fire treatment, drilling and perforations as well as inlaying and etching. Drills are of many variety and perforations are multiple in nature. There are no evidence of drills and furnaces. There is no description regarding shape of beads from

Pattanam, whether they are spherical, globular, oblate, circular, cylindrical, disc, discoidal, tubular, barrel or long barrel. Regarding the bead manufacturing process involved, Pattanam excavation reports in 2014, and 2015 are silent. A few stone debris displayed does not simply indicate that Pattanam was a stone manufacturing industrial site.

Etched and unetched beads of agate, carnelian, chert, jasper, crystal, feldspar are obtained not only from Pattanam. They have been unearthed from numerous megalithic sites in Kerala such as Porkalam, Machad, Pazhayannur, Bangalamottaparamba, Feroke, Kandathamvayil and Kaniyambatta. The bead variety from Pattanam have also been obtained from megalithic site of Kodumanal in Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately the KCHR does not attempt a study of the beads from Pattanam with those obtained from megalithic sites in Kerala nor even mention this fact. It attempts to substantiate that the beads were manufactured at Pattanam.

Regarding the bead manufacturing process involved, Pattanam excavation reports in 2014, and 2015 are silent. A few stone debris displayed does not simply indicate that Pattanam was a stone manufacturing industrial site.

18

Flawed Arguments

Apart from Arikamedu, Mediterranean amphorae and terra sigillata have been found at other southern sites such as Uraiyur, Kanchipuram and Vasavasamudram(both in Chingleput district).They have also been found at sites in Gujarat and western India—such as Dwaraka, Prabhas Patan, Ajabpura, Sathod, Jalat and Nagara.

Upinder Singh 2008.

Roman amphorae fragments are not only unearthed from Pattanam. Numerous sites in west and peninsular India have provided evidence of Roman amphorae.The recently excavated sites which have yielded Roman artifacts in Tamilnadu are, Kanchi, Vasavasamudram (near Mamallapuram), Arikamedu, Karaikadu (near Cuddalore), Kaveripumpattinam, Uraiyur in Trichy Dist, Karur, and Alagankulam near Rameshwaram.

Scholars have studied Roman amphorae from India. Elizabeth Lyding Will has catalogued and studied nearly 70 amphorae fragments from several sites in Tamilnadu such as Arikamedu, Karaikadu, Vasavasamudram and Karur. She conducted extensive studies of the amphora assemblages from several significant archaeological sites which involved the classification and publication of stamped amphora from archaeological sites throughout the Roman world. Will's approach to amphora classification systems considered not only morphological progressions in amphora forms, but also fabric analysis of clay samples.[94][95] Elizabeth Will's studies in Tamil Nadu maritime archaeological sites have been discussed by K.V.Raman who later excavated Arikamedu.[96]

Unfortunately, there has been no contextual study of Pattanam amphorae with Will's classification, from other sites in India nor her work has been referred by KCHR in its reports.

It is significant that of the fifty-five sites where fragments of amphorae have been found, twenty-five are in Gujarat and thirteen of these are clustered around Junagarh. Other find-spots of amphorae shards in Gujarat include coastal centers such as Dwarka, Somnathapattana, Nagara and Valabhi.

Wheeler considered that Rouletted ware was derived from Arretine ware—which he found at the site—since he believed that trade between Arikamedu and the west was essentially a Roman enterprise.

According to P.J. Cherian, Pattanam excavations produced the largest ever assemblage of the Indian Rouletted ware. At the

---

94. Elizabeth .L. Will 2004. The Mediterranean Shipping Amphoras from 1989—1992 Excavations. The Ancient Port of Arikkamedu: New Excavations and Researches -1989-92.Vol 2.

95. Elizabeth .L Will 2004. "Mediterranean Amphorae in India." In Transport Amphorae and Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean, edited by J. Eiring and J. Lund

96. K.V. Raman 1991. Roman Contacts with Tamil Nadu (Southeastern India) –Recent Findings. Paper Presented at UNESCO Silk Road Maritime Routes Seminar, Bangkok :

97. P.J.Cherian 2007-2008.Muziris Heritage Project and the Archaeological Research at Pattanam:An Overview in The Living Dead and the Lost Knowledge Abstracts of International Seminar on Muziris Heritage Project:Archaeological Research at Pattanam 2007and 2008.Government of Kerala

international seminar 2007-2008, he claimed that Rouletted ware is being reported for the first time on the west coast.[97] Dr Cherian quotes Professor Viswas D.Gogte in 2007 as reference. But Gogte is unseen in the bibliography given by Cherian. Dr. Cherian also observed that Pattanam produced for the first time on the southwestern coast of India, Rouletted ware, which is an important evidence for hinterland and Indian Ocean exchanges.[98] Such misleading and false observations are propagated by KCHR on pottery from Pattanam.

> Pattanam was highlighted by KCHR in its National Museum exhibition in 2014 as the third site to unearth Terra Sigillata pottery after Arikamedu and Alagankulam. This is another misleading observation. Terra Sigillata has been recovered from Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Vasavasamudram, Kodumanal, Karur and Sulur in Tamil Nadu and also in western India. At Gujarat it has been unearthed from Dwaraka, Prabhas Patan, Ajabpura, Sathod, Jalat, and Nagara.

Rouletted ware has been proved to be locally manufactured in India. Based on x ray diffraction and neutron activation analysis, Rouletted ware has been proved to be manufactured in Chandraketugarh –Tamluk area of Bengal in Lower Ganga region. It has been reported from 124 sites across the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. In Tamil Nadu, Kaverippattinam, Karaikkadu, Kanchipuram, Alagankulam, Arikamedu, Korkai, Manigramam, Vasavasamudram, Karur, Kodumanal, Uraiyur have yielded Rouletted ware. Chandravalli and Brahmagiri in Karnataka, and Amaravati and forty sites in Andhra yielded Rouletted ware. Rouletted ware has been found in many sites inland in the valleys of

---

[98] The Hindu, October 26, 2011 Postulating Hypothesis is no crime

[99] P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014.Unearthing Pattanam –Histories, Cultures and Crossings. National Museum, KCHR and Sahapedia

Krishna and Godavari, the other most distant site being Nasik.

Pattanam was highlighted by KCHR in its National Museum exhibition in 2014 as the third site to unearth Terra Sigillata pottery after Arikamedu and Alagankulam.[99] This is another misleading observation. Terra Sigillata has been recovered from Uraiyur, Kanchipuram, Vasavasamudram, Kodumanal, Karur and Sulur in Tamil Nadu and also in western India. At Gujarat it has been unearthed from Dwaraka, Prabhas Patan, Ajabpura, Sathod, Jalat, and Nagara. These facts on Rouletted ware and Terra Sigillata have been discussed by Vishwas D.Gogte, Upinder Singh, Himanshu Prabha Ray, Jean Deloche and Sila Tripathy. [100, 101, 102 103, 104]

These evidences are enough to show how reports on pottery from Pattanam have been fabricated to mislead the public.

---

100. Vishwas D. Gogte 2002.Ancient Maritime Trade in the Indian Ocean: Evaluation by Scientific Studies of Pottery in Man and Environment –Special Volume—Indian Ocean in Antiquity, Vol XXVII, No.1

101. Upinder Singh 2008. A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India: From the Stone Age to the 12th Century .Delhi: Pearson

102. Himanshu Prabha Ray 2008. Colonial Archaeology in South Asia—The Legacy of Mortimer Wheeler. Oxford: Oxford University Press

103. Jean Deloche 2010. Roman Trade Routes in South India: Geographical and Technical Factors (C. 1st Cent . BC – 5th Cent . AD) in Indian Journal of History of Science, 45.1

104. Sila Tripati 2011 Ancient maritime trade of the eastern Indian littoral in Current Science , Vol 100, No 7 .

19

Geneza Papers Truncated

The documents concerned were preserved in the so-called Cairo-Genixa, a treasure trove of Judeo—Arabic manuscripts mostly fragmentary and completely disconnected from one another. Moreover they are dispersed today in many libraries, in England, but also in France, USA, Russia, Austria, Hungary and other countries.In order to find out which of them belonged to the topic 'Indian trade' in the wildest sense of the word, one had to visit all the libraries concerned and to read all the documentary Geniza material they possessed.

S.D.Goitein 2001

The Geneza is the storehouse in the ancient Ben Ezra synagogue at Fustat in old Cairo. Egypt has yielded in 1899, a large amount of Judeo-Arabic historic documents. A. substantial part of the documents has been taken to Cambridge University.

Professor Shelomo Dov Goitein was the world's eminent Geneza scholar. A bulk of Judeo-Arabic documentary material in the archives of Cairo Geneza relates to the economic and social lives of Mediterranean Jews. In 1954, Goitein was able to give a report about 130 Geneza papers related in one way or another to the India trade.[105] S.D.Goitein's work along with Mordechai Akiva Friedman illuminates the activities of the Jewish traders of the Indian Ocean and their families in the territories from the Far East to southern Arabia and Egypt.[106] Joseph b. David Lebdi, Mamûn. Hasan- Japheth, Mahrûz b. Jacob, Abraham Ben Yijû and their Jewish families had ties with India as referred by Goitein and Friedman. A letter by Madmun,b.Hasan b.Bundar, Aden, to Abraham Ben Yiju, a Tunisian Jew in 1132 AD in west coast is important in this context.[107]

---

[105] S.D.Goitein. 1987 Portrait of a Medieval India Trader: Three Letters from the Cairo Geniza Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London Vol. 50, No. 3

KCHR has conveniently suppressed the importance of Kodungallur for Jews.The Haftarah (prophetic reading) for the Simchat Torah prayers was essential for Jews in Kochi.The popular Sephardi songs were also chanted with Shingly melodies. Nathan Katz who has worked extensively on Jews in Kerala emphasize that Shingly or Kodungallur was the site of Indian Jewish sovereignty, the home of the archetypal Jewish mercantile prince Joseph Rabban. According to inscriptions engraved on copper plates, the leader of the Jewish settlement in Kodungallur, Joseph Rabban, was accorded by the monarch Bhaskara Ravi Varman in 10th Century AD, a charter and proprietary rights including the collection of tolls. [108]

KCHR has conveniently suppressed the importance of Kodungallur for Jews. Nathan Katz who has worked extensively on Jews in Kerala emphasize that Shingly or Kodungallur was the site of Indian Jewish sovereignty, the home of the archetypal Jewish mercantile prince Joseph Rabban.

The Shingly form of pronunciation is a specific feature of the liturgy of the Cochin Jewish synagogue. The entire liturgy for the afternoon Haqafot (circumambulations around the tebah with the Torah scrolls) was composed in Kodungallur according to Jewish tradition. The Simchat Torah has much importance for the

---

[106] S.D.Goitein and Mordechai Akiva Friedman 2007. India Traders of the Middle Ages— Documents from the Cairo Geniza 'India Book'.Brill :

[107] S.D.Goitein 2001. From Eden to India: Specimens of the Correspondence of Indian Traders of the Twelfth Century in Trade in Early India (Ranavir Chakravarti Ed.)New Delhi: Oxford

[108] Nathan Katz 2000. Who are the Jews of India. London: University of California.

Jewish community. When Yaakob Daniel Cohen established a Hebrew –Malayalam printing press in 1877, his first publication was a liturgy for this occasion.

Medieval Jewish traveler Benjamin of Tudela refers to Kodungallur as Shingli, Shinkali or Ginjalek. In the historical tradition of the Malabar Jews, Kodungallur is regarded as their original home. Until recently there was a tradition of placing a handful of earth from Kodungallur in the coffin of a deceased Cochin Jew.

In the 14th century, Rabbi Nissim ben Reuben of Spain is said to have travelled to Shingly or Kodungallur and composed a song to commemorate his visit.In 1524,David Reubeni, the Qabbalist of Rome and Lisbon wrote in his dairy about Shingly.[109]

These facts have been suppressed by KCHR to juxtapose Pattanam with Muziris and claim academic acceptance for their excavations. The KCHR proposal to bring Dr.Frederico de Romanis Latin scholar and Biblical historian from Rome in 2012 for taking a two week session on Muziris Papyrus document sparked controversies.[110] A two-week course on 'Muziris Papyrus' that the council planned to offer in August 2012 is the result of a memorandum of understanding it signed in 2008 with the University of Rome. Frederico de Romanis was already associated with Muziris Project of KCHR and Pattanam excavations. Earlier, Dr. Romanis, came to KCHR in August 2009 to conduct a six-week crash course in Greek and Latin with special reference to Kerala history.[111]

The Muziris or Vienna Papyrus is an interesting document regarding trade agreement between two merchants of Muziris and Alexandria.But there is no evidence to identify Pattanam as Muziris. KCHR has highlighted this papyrus alone in its National Museum exhibition 2014 to juxtapose Pattanam as Muziris.But it is silent on Geneza papers and Jews, which raises strong suspicion on its intentions.

---

[109] Edna Fernandes 2008, The Last Jews of Kerala .Skyhorse Publishers.

[110] The Hindu, July 9, 2012, Learn about Muziris Papyrus.

[111] The Hindu, August,27,2009, No longer Greek and Latin.

20

National Museum Hoax

It has been suggested that more than 1200 fake antiquities are displayed in some of world's leading museums.

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn 2015

The National Museum,New Delhi organized an exhibition, on Pattanam in November 27, 2014 conceptualised by its Director-General Dr Venu Vasudevan, who was a former Tourism and Culture Secretary of Kerala. Dr Venu also headed Muziris Heritage Project from 2008. Pattanam was highlighted by KCHR in its National Museum exhibition in 2014 as the third site to unearth Terra Sigillata pottery after Arikamedu and Alagankulam.[112] This is a false claim. A large number of sites in India have reported Terra Sigillata which have been discussed earlier .The site of Pattanam was also interpreted as a mound, in National Museum exhibition which is another false contention.[113] It was also propagated that iron tools manufactured at Pattanam were made from iron ore from immediate hinterlands of the site, which is another faux claim. The exhibited antiquities published jointly by National Museum, Sahapedia and KCHR in 2014, does not have a single reference or even select bibliography to substantiate the excavation and antiquities.

112.P.J.Cherian and Jaya Menon 2014.Unearthing Pattanam –Histories, Cultures and Crossings. National Museum KCHR and Sahapedia

113.Ibid

21

Spice Route Imbroglio

The reputation of the Roman Empire has proved peculiarly resilient to postcolonial revisionist views. It is still widely regarded as the paradigmatic empire of all ages and nostalgically revered as the cornerstone of Western civilization. Its more negative impacts are widely ignored or excused... Thus, while studies of modern empires now start with the acceptance that a postcolonial critique of imperialism and its impacts must be either embraced or countered, Roman studies seems to lag far behind. Indeed, many of the key research agendas relating to the Roman Empire appear to be relatively unchanged from those set in place more than a century ago, and any challenge to the cozy consensus view of a largely beneficent empire is liable to be met with skepticism or outright hostility.

David J. Mattingly 2011

In 1453, the rise of Ottoman Turks and the fall of Constantinople, marked the end of the Byzantine empire which severed European land trade with Asia. Located on the European side of the Bosporus, the strait linking the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, the site of Byzantium served as a transit and trade point between Europe and Asia Minor or Turkey.

Until the mid 15th century, trade with the east was achieved through the Silk Road with the Byzantine Empire, and the Italian city-states of Venice and Genoa acting as middle men. In 1453, however, the Ottoman Turks took Constantinople which was renamed Istanbul. The Turks held hegemony to charge hefty taxes on merchandise bound for the west. The Western Europeans, not wanting to be dependent on an expansionist, non-Christian power for the lucrative commerce with the east, set about to find an alternate sea route around Africa. Thus, in the mid-to-late fifteenth century, the Portugal and the Spain began ocean expeditions to avoid the Islamic taxes on Silk Road commodities.

The disintegration of the Silk Road following the reign of the Mongols stimulated Europeans to reach the prosperous Chinese empire via a sea route.Until Marco Polo visited India and other parts of South Asia, Europeans were unfamiliar with pepper and cloves in their botanical form or fresh state. None from Malabar or farther east, made a commercial voyage to Europe, and none in Medieval Europe before Marco Polo near the end of the 13th century has visited India whose location was obscure to European geographers.[114]

Unlike colonial spice trade, the early spice route to India from Mediterranean region is only a recent invention. There was no exclusive spice route to India. It did not exist in Early Historical Period and this fact is vindicated in historical and archaeological sources. KCHR has exclusively relied on some Oxford scholars to vindicate their claims. In four major publications by Oxford University, while we find reference to Silk Road, there is no mention on Spice Route.

There was trade between Mediterranean region and India.It was not exclusively spice trade since it included other commodities. Unlike colonial spice trade, the early spice route to India from Mediterranean region is only a recent invention . There was no exclusive spice route to India. It did not exist in Early Historical Period and this fact is vindicated in historical and archaeological sources. KCHR has exclusively relied on some Oxford scholars to vindicate their claims. In four major publications by Oxford University, while we find reference to Silk Road, there is no mention on Spice Route. Edmund Wright, Timothy Draville, John Roberts and M.C.Howatson and Ian Chilvers make no reference on Spice Route to India that existed during the Roman Period. [115] [116] [117] [118]

---

[114] Paul Freedman 2009 Out of the East—Spices and Medieval Imagination. Hyderabad: Orient Blackswan

The best impression of spices to medieval traders comes from the handbook of merchants. A commercial manual composed before 1340 by Francesco Pegolotti, a Florentine banker who dealt at Cyprus a major centre for European imports of eastern spices is an important document in this context.[119]Trade with western world was mainly in the hand of Arab merchants. A Venetian map of 1450, by Fra Mauro refers to port of Ormuz in the Persian gulf, where ships from India reached with spices and other commodities.They were then transported by land to Baghdad and Asia minor.[120] Large European commercial centres such as Venice, Genoa, Barcelona and Marceilles negotiated treaties with Islamic ports that dictated crucial issues of imports, customs, safety and resolution of disputes.

The strongest proponents of Western civilization have been the modern imperial powers of Europe who claims to be successors of Rome. Footprints of ancient Rome laid theoretical foundations of colonization and offered justifications for European colonialism. The presence of Roman monuments in certain lands allowed colonial powers to lay claim over those territories. This was the case with the French in Algeria and Tunis and the Italians in Lybia. This issue has been discussed by scholars. Colonial historians justify the advent of colonialism not as a new phenomenon, but as a past legacy [121] [122] [123] [124] [125] [126] Colonialism and imperialism are thus interpreted not as western invasions, but as culmination of the ancient Roman trade.

---

[115] Edmund Wright (ed.) 2006 Oxford Dictionary of World History.New York: Oxford

[116] Timothy Darville 2003.Oxford Concise Dictionary of Archaeology. New York: Oxford

[117] John Roberts (ed.) 2007. Oxford Dictionary of the Classical World. New York: Oxford

[118] M.C.Howatson and Ian Chilvers (eds.) 2007.Oxford Concise Companion to Classical Literature. New York: Oxford

[119] Francesco Balducci Pegolotti 1936. La Pratica della mercatura (edited by Allen Evans) Cambridge:

[120] Piero Falchetta 2006.Fra Mauro's World Map.Turnhout:

Historical evidences show that Portuguese after their arrival in India, looked upon themselves as crusaders against Islam and the capture of spice trade was described as a device to reduce the financial strength of Muslims. [127]

The recent Spice Route phenomenon initiated by KCHR and Muziris Heritage Project has been launched earlier in 1998 but it failed. Kerala government announced in 1998 that, it would mark the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's arrival for spice trade on the Kerala coast as an 'international tourist occasion'. The

---

121.David J. Mattingly 2011 Imperialism, Power, and Identity: Experiencing the Roman Empire.Princeton: Princeton University Press

122.R. Hingley, 2000. Roman Officers and English Gentlemen: The Imperial Origins of Roman Archaeology. London: Routledge

123.R. Hingley 2005. Globalizing Roman Culture: Unity, Diversity and Empire. London: Routledge

124.M. Munzi, 2004. Italian archaeology in Libya: From colonial romanità to decolonization of the past, in M. L Galaty and C. Watkinson (eds.), Archaeology under Dictatorship New York: Springer

125.David J.Mattingly, 1996. From one colonialism to another: Imperialism and the Maghreb, in J. Webster and N. Cooper (eds.), Roman Imperialism: Postcolonial Perspectives Leicester: Leicester University Press.

126.Jerome R.Reich 2011. Colonial America.London: Routledge

127 D.P.Singhal 2014(Reprint)India and World Civilization.New Delhi: Rupa

Portuguese Government decided to chalk out its own programmes in this context. The celebrations comprised plans to finance a voyage of replicas of Gama's ships to India and a world exhibition in Lisbon. India was invited to join a bilateral committee to oversee the events.[128] [129] Following strong protests in Kerala, especially by the Muslim community,the central government declined to participate in it. Two preliminary meetings of the Indo-Portugese Joint Commission were cancelled. Kerala and Goa quit the celebrations.

> The recent Spice Route phenomenon initiated by KCHR and Muziris Heritage Project has been launched earlier in 1998 but it failed. Kerala government announced in 1998 that, it would mark the 500th anniversary of Vasco da Gama's arrival for spice trade on the Kerala coast as an 'international tourist occasion' The Portuguese Government decided to chalk out its own programmes in this context. Following strong protests in Kerala, especially by the Muslim community, the central government declined to participate in it. Two preliminary meetings of the Indo Portugese Joint Commission were cancelled. Kerala and Goa quit the celebrations.

The colonial 'spice trade' phenomenon has been currently renamed and launched as 'Spice Route' under KCHR through its Muziris Project and Pattanam excavations. It has roped in imperial Roman trade, linking it with Pattanam for an early legacy. This Roman legacy has been adopted to substantiate the involvement of European colonial powers such as Portugal, Dutch and Britain after 1500AD in India. Historians highlight that modern colonial powers have made extensive use of images of Rome to shape popular perceptions.[130]

---

[128] India Today June 16, 1997 Nothing to Celebrate

[129] India Today July 28 1997 Crossfire

[130] Richard Hingley 2001. An Imperial Legacy: The contribution of Classical Rome to the Character of the English. In Images of Rome: Perceptions of Ancient Rome in Europe and the United States in the modern age. Journal of Roman Archaeology, Supplementary Series.

22

Colonial Hegemony

An effective system of colonialism reduces the imposed upon to a shell of a human who is incapable of thinking in a subjective way of his or her own interest. In everything the person becames like the imposer; thus in desires, wishes, visions, purposes, styles, structures, values and especially the values of education, the person operates against his or her own interest.

Molefi Kete Asante 2006

Recent archaeological studies are multi disciplinary and occasionally involve faculty from various universities and institutes. Foreign universities take part in such inter disciplinary programmes since joint researches and collaborations are not unusual. Aurel Stein, John Marshall, George F.Dales, Stella Kramrisch, Grace Morley, Kenneth A.R.Kennedy, J.M.Casal, Jean Francois Jarrige, Gregory Possehl, M.Taddei, B.De Cardi and numerous scholars from west have collaborated and participated in archaeological researches in India. After Mortimer Wheeler and Jean Marie Casal, the site of Arikamedu was jointly excavated from 1989 to 1992 by the University of Pennsylvania and University of Madras with Professors Vimala Begley and K.V.Raman as directors. This is a classical example of international collaboration in archaeological excavations in India.

In another instance of regional collaboration, Tamil University Thanjavur alongwith Madras University and Tamil Nadu

Department of Archaeology dug 48 trenches and exposed more than a dozen megalithic burial sites at Kodumanal from 1985 to 1990.

The strengthening of neo colonialism takes place with interventions in culture and heritage of Asian and African nations by the west.This is the corridor for a re entry by colonialism. Indian institutions and universities are kept away and foreign institutions are invited by their Indian lobbies to dominate and interpret the past. Institutions and organizations abroad bestowed funds for excavations, conducted seminars, workshops and supported research programmes on Pattanam. The foreign institutions associated with Pattanam excavations include British Museum, University of Rome, University of Hungary, University of Georgia, St' Lawrence University USA, University of Pisa,Central European University, Southampton University, Durham University and Camilo Jose Cela University. A long line of Euro American scholars such as Istvan Perzel, Robert Eisenman, Roberta Tomber, Lucy Blue, Federico de Romanis, Derek Kennet, Steven Sidebotham, Heidrun Schenk, David Blackman and Luis Feduchi guide Pattanam researches. Interestingly, these foreign institutions and individuals have never been earlier involved in any Indian archaeological studies. Their new interest in Pattanam, keeping aside all premier Indian institutions, instead of a joint collaboration is a conundrum?

The strengthening of neo colonialism takes place with interventions in culture and heritage of Asian and African nations by the west.This is the corridor for a re entry by colonialism. Indian institutions and universities are kept away and foreign institutions are invited by their Indian lobbies to dominate and interpret the past.

Currently, the involvement of Indian lobbies and western academia and institutions in Pattanam, keeping away the Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Universities raises serious questions on the aims and objectives of unearthing an ordinary site in coastal Kerala. Foreign funding through institutions, organisations and NGOs in India, tremendously influence research agendas. Edward Said of Colombia University invites our attention on the Middle East Institute found in Washington in 1946 and the Middle East Studies Association supported and funded by Ford and other foundations, for gaining cultural foothold on Middle East. Federal programmes supporting various universities, federal research projects sponsored by defence department, lobbying efforts of banks, oil companies and multinationals are in full swing as highlighted by Said who proposes the parallel between European and American imperial designs on the Orient.[131]

Eminent Indian anthropologist G.S.Ghurye hardly pursued foreign funded projects since he perceived that there was no transparency in research, and Indian scholars were never given independence by foreign partners who virtually sidelined them. Noted academic, Satish Sabberwal has analysed that varied forms of academic colonialism may manifest in ex-colonies. On one hand, foreign academics and intellectuals may exercise political dominance by wielding their status to directly influence the course of regional politics. Sabberwal highlights how western academics may exercise intellectual domination through their economic and political patronage of individuals and institutions in the non west with disastrous consequences for problem selection, research design, and modes of publication.[132]

Currently, the involvement of Indian lobbies and western academia and institutions in Pattanam, keeping away the Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Universities raises serious questions on the aims and objectives of unearthing an ordinary site in coastal Kerala.

Dr Joan Gero observed that many of the oldest and most

---

131. Edward W. Said, 2001 (Reprint) Orientalism—Western Conceptions of the Orient. New Delhi: Penguin

132. Sathish Sabberwal 1968.The Problem, in Seminar No 112

133. Paper Presented by Dr Joan Gero at the American Anthropological Association meeting, November 18, 1999

134. Claire Smith and H. Martin Wobst (Eds.) 2005 .Indigenous Archaeologies: Decolonising Theory and Practice. Routledge

splendid sites are located in the poorest countries in the world and access to knowledge about these sites is controlled - at least in part - by the agendas, funding agencies and cultural institutions of hegemonic regions such as the United States and Western Europe.[133]

Claire Smith and H.Martin Wobst highlighted that colonial archaeology is an endeavour which perpetrates values of western cultures and hence solidly grounded in western ways of knowing the world. They argued that "*Who has a right to control the past?"* is not just an academic question, but a practical reality that must be faced in the many day to day interaction between archaeologists and indigenous people.[134]

Sabberwal highlights how western academics may exercise intellectual domination through their economic and political patronage of individuals and institutions in the non west with disastrous consequences for problem selection, research design, and modes of publication.

Distinguished anthropologist, Talal Asad argued that anthropology is rooted in an unequal power between the West and the Third World in which ethnographic and historical knowledge of the colonized domains not only enabled the colonizers to know and thus administer their territories better, but also reinforced the inequalities in capacities between European and non-European worlds.[135] Patricia Uberoi, Director of the Institute of Chinese Studies emphasize that undercurrents of Euro American studies aims to colonize the non western mind through the imposition of

---

135. Talal Asad 1991.Afterword: From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the Anthropology of Western Hegemony. In George W.Stocking Jr. (Ed.) Colonial Situations: Madison:

136. Patricia Uberoi, Satish Deshpande and Nandini Sundar. 2010. Introduction: The Professionalization of Indian Anthropology and Sociology in Anthropology in the East New Delhi: Permanent Black.

137. The international conference on 'Decolonising our Universities' June 27-29 2011, Penang

138. Kris Olds 2011 July 23. Decolonising our universities: another world is desirable https://globalhighered.wordpress.com/tag/universiti-sains-malaysia/ Accessed on September 20,2016

western education, western categories of thought and the value frame of western science.[136]

The international conference on *Decolonising Universities* highlighted the harm done to Universities outside the West by the 'tutelage and tyranny of Western institutions'.[137] The conference brought together academics and activists from Asia, Africa, the Middle east and elsewhere to address the problem of Eurocentrism in universities of the Global South. S.M.Mohammad Idris, chairperson of Citizens International, reminded participants at this meet that colonialism is not just a political and economic system, but that it is a malady that has afflicted peoples of the Global South on the level of culture. The participants concluded that "*We are firmly convinced that every trace of Eurocentrism in our universities—reflected in various insidious forms of western control over publications, theories and models of research must be subordinated to our scintillating cultural and intellectual traditions*".[138]

Kenyan scholar at Cambridge University, Njoki Wamai highlighted that students are contesting the domination of a white capitalist curriculum that refuses to acknowledge other sources of knowledge outside the western world in social sciences. Reading lists on world literature or world politics or world history as told by western scholars about the other, with a token appearance of scholars from the colonised world, should be revised as argued by Wamai.[139]

Recent International Decoloniality Conference on *Decolonising the University in Africa* organized by University of South Africa was proposed to be held in August 2016. The conference highlights that youth in South Africa, England, the United States, France, and the Netherlands, among other countries, are explicitly calling for the decolonisation of universities.

---

139. Njoki Wamai 2016. Decolonising the Academy – Towards a Global Movement? In University World News 27 May 2016 Issue No:415

140. David L. Szanton, 2004.The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines Los Angeles: University of California Press

141. UNESCO World Social Science Report 2010

David Szanton invited our attention on Project Camelot, an operation run by the US Defence and the Central Intelligence Agency that funded anthropological research in South America in the early 1960s as a particularly notorious example of western interference in social science research in countries of the third world.[140]

The UNESCO Report 2010 concludes that for all practical purposes social science research outside the non-European world is so insignificant in quality it is rarely cited. The Report highlights that North America cited zero research from both Asia and Africa.[141] The report sidelined the fact that quality publications are published in south Asia.

Social scientist Cheng Feng Shih noted in 2010 that native scholars in knowledge-dependent states have to ask for endorsement by 'foreign monks' in areas such as research agenda-settings, definitions of research problems, applications of methods, or selections of scientific indicators.[142]

Involvement of Euro American scholarship at an Indian site such as Pattanam keeping aside the ASI and Indian academia has been criticized by veteran South Asian archaeologist Professor Dilip Chakrabarty. On 2nd January 2008, Chakarabarty delivering the lecture titled *'Globalisation and Indian Archaeology'* precautioned that, the academic archaeology Indians currently swear by, is fundamentally Anglo-American archaeology, currently more American than orthodox British. In India, this branch of archaeological study can be called, the archaeology of European expansion.The American archaeologists who work in the Biblical lands or the textually rich phases of Egyptian and West Asian history work unashamedly towards the reconstruction of historical pasts. The Third World scholars receive "patronage money" from west for visiting fellowships, conferences, workshops

---

142. Cheng Feng Shih 2010. Academic Colonialism and the Struggle for Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Taiwan in Social Alternatives Vol. 29 No.1

143.Dilip Chakrabarty. 2nd January 2008 'Globalisation and Indian Archaeology' at Indian Archaeological Society Conference, New Delhi and seminars which is an integral part of research grants. This scenario is dominant in modern India, where university teachers compete for "international collaborations". Chakrabarty emphasized that international collaborations are welcome, and when the collaborators on both sides are on the same academic level, certain good things are bound to accrue from intellectual exchanges.[143]

Chakrabarty further pointed out that the issues of race and migration have not gone away from mainstream Euro-American archaeology. They have relocated their space in the archaeological scheme under the new rubrics of ethnicity, historical linguistics, and archaeo genetics. People working in South Asian social science faculties in foreign universities conveniently develop a tacit patron –client relationship with their Indian counterparts in major Indian Universities. The establishment of institutes or cultural centres of foreign agencies in Indian metropolises also pulls a large crowd of Indians in search of grants and invitation to conferences.

In 2014, Chakrabarty pointed out that "*If we have to bring back our mind to the Indian past, we realize that the knowledge of the Indian past has been historically controlled by Western scholars. The situation remains more or less unchanged even now. Quite recently, the Chairman of the Kerala Council of Historical Research, who is involved in the excavations of a Roman contact site called Muziris (identified with the site of Pattinam in Kerala), managed to draw collaboration from Oxford University. Interestingly, he took a lot of pride in the fact that no less a site than Oxford considered the site important enough for attention, and him personally worthy of collaboration.*"[144]

Another typical example is the controversy in Delhi University. In January 2010, the department of sociology in Delhi University formally inaugurated a new European Study Centre at its premises funded by the European Union. The Centre assured help in the redesign of the existing sociology syllabi of the MA and M.Phil programmes at the department in consultation with European scholars. The European Union was willing to finance the two year programme of the centre. It created a storm in Indian Universities.[145].

---

[144] Dilip Chakrabarty 2014 Foreign Archaeological Collaborations and India's Security Concerns- Lecture at Vivekananda International Foundation , New Delhi

The Ministry of Home Affairs has tightened the norms governing the involvement of foreigners in research areas deemed sensitive or inconvenient for the government. The ministry has insisted, that the NGOs will have to specify areas and spending of foreign funds on research, seminars, conferences, publications and lectures for getting permission.[146]

Recently the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has cancelled the licence of over twenty NGOs in Kerala under the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 2010, with effect from November 1, 2016 which include KCHR.[147]

It is also alleged that the KCHR director himself was involved in creation of fake government documents, illegal appointments and financial irregularities worth crores.[148]

Such serious allegations on KCHR, along with the dominance of Western universities and institutions in Pattanam, sidelining premier Indian institutions has to be seen in a wider context.

---

145. The Indian Express September 29, 2009, DU sociology dept faculty members split over European study centre

146. The Economic Times June 19, 2015, Home Ministry brings in tighter norms for NGOs to track foreign funds

147. The New Indian Express December 8, 2016 MHA shows no charity, cuts licence of around 20 NGOs

148. http://english.mathrubhumi.com/news/kerala/rampant-irregularities-detected-at-kchr-kerala-kerala-council-for-historical-research-corruption-1.1478483 published: Novmber 4, 2016, 05:05PM IST Accessed November 8, 2016

23

Academic Censure

There is no recognition of the technical training required of historians and archaeologist or of the foundations of social science essential to historical exploration. Engineers, computer experts, journalists turned politicians, foreign journalists posing as scholars of Indology, and what you have, assume infallibility, and pronounce on archaeology and history.

Romila Thapar 2000

Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarty has cautioned the central government about unnecessary involvement of foreign scholars and institutions in Pattanam. He questions the KCHR director's claim that an Oxford team is involved in Pattanam excavations. Chakrabarty points out that the Oxford characters mentioned by P.J.Cherian in Pattanam excavations, C.Gosden and W.Morrison have never been interested in Indian archaeology and hence their presence in the Pattanam project is irrelevant in the Indian context. Chakrabarty cautions the Indian government to take serious notice of Biblical and Jewish interest groups in Pattanam.[149]

Professor M G S Narayanan, called upon the KCHR to hand over the Pattanam excavations to the Archaeological Survey of India. Presiding over the annual meet of the archaeologists in 2011, he said that the KCHR had not been able to make considerable progress in the excavation so far.[150] He demanded that only the ASI, which is the representative body of the archaeologists in the country, had the expertise to take up such a task and conduct it in a scientific manner. He also expressed his dis-pleasure over the KCHR's decision to black out the media about the archaeological meet in 2011 fearing criticism from scholars across the country who assembled for the conference at Thiruvananthapuram. The organisers of the archaeological conference in Kerala neither invited the media nor gave the details to it.[151]

---

[149] Dilip K. Chakrabarty 2014. Nation First—Essays in the Politics of Ancient Indian Studies.New Delhi: Aryan Books International

> **Professor Dilip K. Chakrabarty has cautioned the central government about unnecessary involvement of foreign scholars and institutions in Pattanam. He questions the KCHR director's claim that an Oxford team is involved in Pattanam excavations. Chakrabarty cautions the Indian government to take serious notice of Biblical and Jewish interest groups in Pattanam.**

Prof A.Sundara pointed out at the archaeological conference at Thiruvananthapuram that there are no major structural remains at the site. He was responding after the presentation of the paper on Pattanam by Cherian. Professor Sundara told P.J.Cherian that such approaches are not adopted in field archaeology since cultural material from each trench has its validity.

Dr. R.Nagaswamy Former Director of Archaeology, Tamil Nadu, while welcoming the research at Pattanam, questioned the nature of excavations. He cautioned on August 5, 2011 that myth cannot be called history.[152] Connecting myth with history could only create confusion and distort history. Dr.Nagaswamy observed there is no substantial evidence to say that Pattanam is connected with Muziris. Those who claim to have found materials to connect

---

[150] Indian Express 16 Nov 2011 MGS Narayanan asks KCHR to hand over Pattanam Excavations

[151] ibid

[152] The New Indian Express, August 5, 2011- Expert nails false propaganda on Muziris.

Pattanam with Muziris have forgotten that these materials were also found in the eastern and the western coasts of the country. Nagaswamy asked for the strongest evidence obtained till now to establish that Pattanam was Muziris.[153]

Professor M G S Narayanan, called upon the KCHR to hand over the Pattanam excavations to the Archaeological Survey of India. Presiding over the annual meet of the archaeologists in 2011, he said that the KCHR had not been able to make considerable progress in the excavation so far. Narayanan demanded that only the ASI, which is the representative body of the archaeologists in the country, had the expertise to take up such a task and conduct it in a scientific manner.

Nagaswamy emphasized there was lack of evidence to show that the artefacts unearthed at Pattanam came specifically from Rome. He pointed out that the institutes of marine archaeology and oceanography have been kept aside in the course of Pattanam excavations. He said there is a need for more excavations in Kodungallur and the findings of both Kodungallur and Pattanam have to be compared.

In January 2008, Dr.T. Satyamurthy, former Director Archaeological Survey of India demanded more horizontal excavations at Pattanam with involvement of experts to validate the initial findings.[154] Later in August 2011, Satyamurthy who was also former Director of Archaeology Department of Kerala State came down heavily on KCHR and Pattanam excavators for making hasty and unscientific conclusions and propagating them. He demanded coastal dredging of Kodungallur and other offshore areas around Pattanam with the help of National Institute of Marine Archaeology. On 2012, National Museum Archaeology Conservation Head, M.V. Nair elaborated on the need to incorporate scientific analysis in the excavations at Pattanam.[155]

---

[154] The Hindu, January 9. 2008 – Study points to 500 BC Kerala Maritime activity.

[155] The Hindu, February 6,2012 – Historian cautions on Pattanam excavations.

24

At Crossroads

> ***The Pattanam excavations under Cherian have also began to attract some Biblical and Jewish scholarly interest, making the whole thing look like an unholy conglomeration of various interest groups. It is time the government of India took serious notice of these groups.***
>
> ***D.K.Chakrabarti 2014***

On February 27, 2016 Pattanam excavations snowballed into a controversy. The Indian President Pranab Mukherjee cancelled his visit to an exhibition of archaeological artefacts at Pattanam on the eve of the inauguration of the Muziris Heritage Project (MHP).[156] MGS Narayanan charged that the Kerala government has been misled by the KCHR into believing that the archaeological site of Pattanam, was the location of the famous ancient harbour of Muziris.[157]

Earlier an attempt was made to drag the Prime Minister into Pattanam and Muziris Heritage Project. An article published in *The Hindu* in 2015 emphasized the cultural importance of Muziris and how recently KCHR excavations identified it as Pattanam.[158] But sensing the agenda underlying the project and ongoing controversies, it seems that the PMO might have declined the offer. Although Pattanam found place in the Shanghai Archaeological Forum in China,[159] it declined acceptance from the President and Prime Minister of India .

---

[156] The Hindu , February 28 ,2016 – President skips Pattanam exhibition.

[157] The Hindu February 27, 2016.Pattanam is not Muziris asserts MGS

> The Indian President Pranab Mukherjee cancelled his visit to an exhibition of archaeological artefacts at Pattanam on the eve of the inauguration of the Muziris Heritage Project. Earlier an attempt was made to drag the Prime Minister into Pattanam and Muziris Heritage Project. But sensing the agenda underlying the project and ongoing controversies, it seems that the PMO might have declined the offer.

---

[158] The Hindu, August 27,2015 - A mosque visit Modi finds hard to pull off,'by Vargheese K George.

[159] Business Standard December 27, 2015 Pattanam excavations finds place in SAF

25

Marketing Strategies

He (Mortimer Wheeler) categorically stated that there is now no doubt that, in the first two centuries AD, Roman traders established 'factories' or permanent trading stations up and down the coastline of the Indian peninsula and that their influence extended directly or indirectly far into the interior. These factories were not unlike those that the Europeans had established along the Indian coasts from the sixteen century onwards. Thus, clearly in Wheeler's mind, there was a thin line that distinguished the twentieth century British Empire from the Roman Empire of the first and second centuries AD and often this distinction was blurred.

Himanshu Prabha Ray 2008.

Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi took a keen interest in Pattanam from the beginning. Professor Romila Thapar was one among its patrons [160].

The 25th seminar under the auspices of the Liturgical Research Centre of Syro –Malabar Church was held at Kochi, Kerala from 15 -17 November 2005.A paper titled *'Christians and the Cultural Shaping of India in the First Millennium A.D'* was presented by Fr Dr. Pius Malekandathil of the Centre for Historical Studies, in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The 39th Seminar of the

---

[160] Muziris Heritage Project –Pattanam Excavations -2008 KCHR

Litrugical Research Centre was held in Kalyan, Mumbai from July 29-31, 2011 at the Hope Centre, Amboli, Andheri West. The Theme of the seminar was *'Early Christian Communities of St. Thomas Tradition in India' where* Fr.Dr.Pius Malekandathil presented another paper titled *'Early Christian Communities of St Thomas Tradition in the South-West Coast of India'*.

The 25th seminar under the auspices of the Liturgical Research Centre of Syro –Malabar Church was held in 2005 at Kochi. A paper titled *'Christians and the Cultural Shaping of India in the First Millennium A.D'* was presented by Fr Dr. Pius Malekandathil of the Centre for Historical Studies, in Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. In 2006, Professor Kumkum Roy and Professor Neeladri Bhattacharya, both from JNU have included in the history textbook on Social Science for Class VI, Muziris in the map of important trade routes. They have linked it with arrival of first apostolic preachers in India.

Professor Kumkum Roy of JNU, highlighted Pattanam stating that it has now been identified with ancient Muziris.[161] Similarly Professor Ranabir Chakravarti of the JNU brings Pattanam into focus. A Roman amphora from Pattanam is presented as evidence of Mediterranean trade.[162] It is not a new discovery. There are a number of other sites in India which have provided remains of Roman amphorae. But here the intention raised suspicions due to later events. In 2006, Professor Kumkum Roy was advisor to NCERT Textbook Devolopment Committee along with chief advisor, Professor Neeladri Bhattacharya, both from JNU. In the history textbook on Social Science for Class VI, they have included Muziris in the map of important trade routes without mentioning Pattanam and linking it with arrival of first apostolic preachers in India.[163]

---

[161] Kumkum Roy 2009.Historical Dictionary of Ancient India.New Delhi: Hatchette India

[162] Ranabir Chakrabarti 2010.Exploring Early India—Upto c. AD 1300.Delhi: Macmillan

[163] Social Science 2006.Our Pasts -1-Text Book in History For Class VI.New Delhi :NCERT

26

Zealous Propaganda

The excavations at Pattanam have unearthed the remnants of a first-century AD naval port; the findings clearly indicate that the port was in intense trade contact not only with other Indian coastal regions but also with West-Asia, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean. Archeologist think that perhaps the site can be identified with ancient Musiris, well known from Antique sources (Strabo, Pliny, the Periplus Maris Erythraei, Kosmas Indikopleustes). According to tradition Musiris was also the port where the Apostle Saint Thomas landed and the epics of indigenous South-Indian Christianity started. This discovery opens immense new perspectives for scholarship, so I wish all success for the continuation.

Professor Istvan Perczel 2008 •

The KCHR was not constituted by academia from various universities in Kerala. The government had constituted the KCHR and registered it under the Travancore-Cochin literary and scientific societies act abolishing the Kerala gazetteer department.

Write up by K. George Vargheese brought to light the family history project initiated by KCHR simultaneously with Pattanam excavations.[164] The KCHR was filling its archives with family

---

- • Istvan Perczel, Central European University, Budapest, Hungary in Observations and Comments by Eminent Scholars and Experts for Muziris Heritage Project –Pattanam Excavations -2008 Published by KCHR

[164] Economic and Political Weekly - February 28,- March 5, 2004, Vol- 39, No.9. Writing family histories: Identity construction among Syrian Christians.

history of Syrian Christian community which traces its roots in Muziris. The article created controversies since one particular religious group was handpicked by KCHR to dominate its archives in par with Muziris project. There was no clarification from KCHR.

Recently, Irving L Finkel, Assyriologist, and scholar in Biblical Studies inaugurated 'Khor Rori' the KCHR Children's Museum at Pattanam. Khor Rori is one of the significant archaeological sites in Oman and is regarded as the location of many Biblical episodes.

Recently, Irving L Finkel, Assyriologist, and scholar in Biblical Studies inaugurated 'Khor Rori' the KCHR Children's Museum at Pattanam.[165] In his recent work Irving Finkel reveals the discovery of a cuneiform tablet that contained a flood narrative similar to that of the story of Noah's Ark in Bible.[166] Finkel is a Council Member of the Anglo-Israel Archaeology Society.

Finkel said in an interview that the ark episode of Noah has been " *a matter of argument and anguish since 1872, but it was up to me to consider how this story that is definitely older than the Bible managed to end up in the Bible*" .

"*Most people, when they get to this question, runaway like mad. There are books that say the Babylonian period and the Bible are obviously connected, but nobody has ever really tried to explain how it happened.*"Finkel observed.[167]. KCHR highlights that Irv-

---

165 KCHR Newsletter August 9, 2016 KHOR RORI – The KCHR Children's Museum inaugurated at Pattanam

https:// kchrnewsletter. wordpress. com/2016/08/09/khor-rori-the-kchr-childrens-museum-inaugurated-at-pattanam/Accessed on 19-09- 2016

166 Irving L.Finkel 2014.The Ark before Noah:Decoding the Story of the Flood.First Anchor Books

167 The Catholic Herald 14-02-2014 -How the ark changed shape –Interview with Will Gore

168 Pattanam Excavation Report 2015 -9th Season. Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR

ing Finkel specialises in Mesopotamian magic, religion and board games.[168] The context of magic and religion with Pattanam has to be convincingly interpreted to the academic community by the KCHR.

Khor Rori which is associated with KCHR is one of the significant archaeological sites in Oman and is regarded as the location of many Biblical episodes. The site has been excavated by the American Foundation for the Study of Man in the early 1950s and from 1994 by the Italian Mission to Oman. The ruins are claimed to be the palace of Queen Sheba of Biblical fame. Hence KCHR's Children's Museum at Pattanam has been named Khor Rori. KCHR is associated with Khor Rori excavations from 2014.

At the 25th seminar of the Liturgical Research Centre of Syro –Malabar Church at Kochi, held from 15 —17 November 2005, Pattanam was focussed. Two papers, *Pattanam the First Indo-Roman Trading Centre on the Malabar Coast* and *Archeological Findings about Muziris* were presented by K.P. Shajan and V. Selvakumar of KCHR . It stirred a major controversy regarding the interest of Syro Malabar Church in Pattanam. The 39th Seminar of the Liturgical Research Centre was held in Kalyan, Mumbai from July 29-31, 2011. Dr. PJ Cherian presented a paper titled –*'The Impact of Recent Archaeological Discoveries in the ancient Muziris on the Historiography of the Establishment of Christianity in Kerala'* -highlighting the importance of Pattanam as the landing spot of St' Thomas in India.

P.J.Cherian also presented in 2011 another paper *on Pattanam - Archaeological Evidence and History of Early Christianity in*

169.P.J. Cherian 2011. "Pattanam Puravasthu Thelivukalum Keraalthinde Aadimachristhava Charithravum" (Mal.) Pattanam - Archaeological Evidence and History of Early Christianity in Kerala. Heritage and Development in the Mission of the Church, Festschrift in Honour of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Thiruvalla, 2011, pp. 300–308.

Also see Bibliography of publications related to Pattanam in research http://www.keralahistory. ac.in/pdf2014/international_fellow_ 2014.pdf-Accessed on 27nth September 2016

Kerala, for the seminar- Heritage and Development in the Mission of the Church, in honour of the Metropolitan, Thiruvalla, Kerala.[169]

Member of KCHR and Muziris Heritage Project, Prof N.M.Mathew who is official theologian of Malankara Church has already given wide publicity to Muziris Papyrus. The issue aggravated and a strong objection came from historians who questioned the aims and objectives of Pattanam excavations.

The involvement of foreign scholarship in Pattanam excavations raises serious allegations. Let us take two instances. Dr. Roberta Tomber who has been associated with Pattanam and has guided it from the beginning, presented a paper at British Museum in 2006 titled '*Bishops and Traders: The Role of Christianity in the Indian Ocean during the Roman Period*'.[170] [171] It was a paper in the Proceedings of Red Sea Project III held in the British Museum, London.

Prof Istvan Perczel from Central European University, Budapest is a scholar on Early Christianity and one of the patrons of Pattanam excavations. He send a letter to KCHR asking it to go ahead with Pattanam excavations which will unearth the St' Thomas tradition[172] which has been quoted above. Istvan Perczel, delivered a lecture at KCHR on history of Kerala Christianity.[173] Perczel's comments sparked controversies on the KCHR agenda.

---

[170] Roberta Tomber 2006.Bishops and Traders: The Role of Christianity in the Indian Ocean during the Roman Period' . Paper on the Proceedings of Red Sea Project III British Museum, London October 2006

[171] Roberta Tomber. 2007.Bishops and traders: The role of Christianity in the Indian Ocean during the Roman period.In J. Starkey, P. Starkey, & T. Wilkinson (Eds.), Natural resources and cultural connections of the Red Sea (pp. 219 – 226). Oxford: Archaeopress.

[172] Muziris Heritage Project 2008, Published by KCHR, p-14.Thiruvanathapuram:

[173] The Hindu, February 12, 2008, Destruction of Christian monuments draw flak.

27

ASI orders Probe

It is only a myth, which has now been connected with the excavations at Pattanam near Kodungalloor... Myth cannot be called history. Connecting myth with history could only create confusion and distort history.

Dr. R. Nagaswamy, Indian Express November 5, 2011

On January 2016, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) initiated a probe into alleged unscientific approaches adopted by the KCHR and over intervention of foreign institutions in Pattanam. Based on the complaints, a meeting of the central advisory panel of the ASI held on September 12 and 13 2015 asked the KCHR to temporarily stop the excavations. Rules demand that extension beyond five years can be given only after those carrying out the excavation submit reports. In the case of the Muziris project, the digging has been going on for over seven years now, but no report was submitted. So no fresh permission can be granted, according to ASI joint director R.S. Fonia.[174] Even CAG report has stated that KCHR used to submit only interim reports to the ASI on Pattanam excavations. Further, there are also serious allegations of unethical professional practices against KCHR[175].

---

[174] The Telegraph, October 1, 2015, Doubting Thomases suspend Saint Project.

[175] The New Indian Express November 18, 2016, CAG report fails to deter govt.

28

The Right to Control the Past

The Kerala Government has been misled by the KCHR into believing that the archaeological site of Pattanam, a few miles away from Kodungallur, was the location of the famous ancient harbour of Muziris.

MGS Narayanan, The Hindu February 27, 2016

By presenting the site of Pattanam as an archaeological mound, one of the biggest fabrications of the past has taken place.The site was claimed as a civilization. It was also designated as an urban site that devoloped three centuries before Christ.Was there a pre Mauryan phase at Pattanam?What were the features of this Pre Mauryan phase if it existed ? KCHR cannot provide an answer. Let us understand that there are precursors to urbanism in Early Historic India. Archaeologists decline to designate even some large excavated sites as townships. The KCHR has either failed to understand this context or has its own *modus operandi* to establish its agenda. The ceramic studies at Pattanam are highly misleading as have been discussed earlier. The claims of lapidiaries are not different.

The flooding of the Periyar in 1341 which brought mud to

---

176. *Bouchon Genevieve and Denys Lombard 1999. The Indian Ocean in the Fifteenth Century in India and the Indian Ocean –1500-1800 (Ashin Das Gupta and M.N.Pearson eds.)New Delhi: Oxford*

ancient Kodungallur has been pointed out by Genevieve Bouchon and Denys Lombard.[176] It silted the river mouth and in turn the Muziris port.

Accusing Jews for interfering with the pepper trade, Moors attacked Jewish settlement in Kodungallur, burnt their houses and synagogues. The trade diaspora of Jews situated at Kodungallur was again heavily damaged in 1504 after a Portugese attack by Pacheco. The Jews migrated to Chennamangalam and Mattanchery near Kochi. Construction of the Jewish synagogue in 1567 was initiated by David Baleha, Samuel Castil, Ephraim Salah and Joseph Levi. A Hebrew inscription dated to early 1269AD recovered from Jewish tomb at Chennamangalam has been deciphered by Winternitz.[177]

Kodungallur survived even during the Dutch Period. In 1761, Commander Weijerman instructed the coast guard at Kodungallur to let Syrian Jewish merchant Ezechiel Rahabi's vessel pass without interruption.[178] It shows that Kodungallur remained undeserted as a major trade centre till the eighteenth century. Ashin Das Gupta discusses the approach of Adrian Maaten who took charge in 1732 of the Dutch Malabar Commandant. Maaten refers to Kodungallur as one of the fortified posts in west coast.[179]

Metal images from Thiruvanchikkulam near Kodungallur belonging to 17th century shows the site was a major centre of metal crafts .

Hence Professor MGS Narayanan asserted that historical inaccuracies were being pedalled in the name of Muziris and there was no conclusive evidence yet that Muziris was in Pattanam.

---

177. M. Winternitz 1927-28. A Hebrew inscription of 1269 AD from Chennamangalam in Cochin in Report of the Cochin Archaeological Department, Thrishur.

178The sailings of Rahabi's vessels can be traced in the pages of Dutch Passport Books preserved at Madras Record Office (Serial 868).

179 Ashin Das Gupta, 2004.Malabar in c. 1740 in The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant (1500—1800) Collected Essays of Ashin Das Gupta .Compiled by Uma Das Gupta .New Delhi: Oxford

As rightly argued by Professor Dilip Chakrabarti, the pursuit of the past is not an innocuous academic activity, and before foreign academic groups are given uncontrolled and unverified entry in this context in India, we must be aware of the dimensions which impinge on our long-term national security.

He observed that Kerala's indigenous heritage was being rejected in favour of a narrative around merchants who came from abroad.[180] This allegation stands vindicated as an attempt has been made by Wendy Morrison from Oxford who argued that Pattanam and Dorchester in England shared similar links with Rome. KCHR is also associated with excavations at Khor Rori in Oman under Pisa University, Italy [181, 182]

KCHR is thus actively engaged in linking Pattanam with Roman World. It aims to write a new historical tradition supported by western scholars and institutions. Since the major institutions and academia in India have been kept in dark and the excavation fabricated, the aims and objectives of KCHR stand questioned. The KCHR cannot set the antecedent for defining India's past with the backing of an international lobby.

As rightly argued by Professor Dilip Chakrabarti, the pursuit of the past is not an innocuous academic activity, and before foreign academic groups are given uncontrolled and unverified entry in this context in India, we must be aware of the dimensions which impinge on our long-term national security. We have to be cautious that major premises regarding the nation's past cannot be allowed to be controlled by foreign groups, and Government interventions are very important in this context.[183] ■

---

[180] The Economic Times, September 6, 2015 How Kerala's Muziris Heritage Project could serve as a model for conservation?

[181] The Hindu April 21, 2014, Pattanam and Dorchester shared similar links with Rome

[182] The Times of India January 15, 2014, KCHR is join Khor Rori excavations.

[183] Dilip K. Chakrabarty 2014. Foreign Archaeological Collaborations and India's Security Concerns. Lecture delivered at Vivekananda International Foundation New Delhi.

References

Allchin, F.R.1995 *The Archaeology of Early Historic South Asia—The Emergence of Cities and States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Anujan Achan P. 1947.*Annual Report of Archaeological Department—Cochin State*. Cochin: Cochin Government Press

Asad, Talal 1991.Afterword: From the History of Colonial Anthropology to the Anthropology of Western Hegemony. In George W.Stocking Jr. Ed. *Colonial Situations: Essays on the Conceptualization of Ethnographic Knowledge*(Vol 7 on the History of Anthropology Series) Madison: University of Wisconsin Press

Asante, Molefi Kete 2006. Foreward to Anti Colonianlism and Education- The Politics of Resistance (George J. Sefa Dei and Arla Kempf (Eds.) Rotterdam: Sense Publishers

Baker V.R., L.L.Ely, Y.Enzel, and V.S.Kale 1995. Understanding India's Rivers: Late Quaternary Palaeofloods, Hazard Assessment and Global Change in *Quaternary Environments and Geoarchaeology of India* (Statira Wadia, Ravi Korisettar and V.S.Kale Eds.) Banglore: Geological Society of India

Begley, Vimala 1996. Changing Perceptions of Arikamedu, in *The Ancient Port of Arikamedu—New Excavations and Researches 1989—1992* Vol 1 (Vimala Begley et.al.Eds.) Pondicherry:

Begely Vimala, 1988 , Arikamedu Reconsidered, AJA, l983 and Rouletted ware at Arikamedu: A new Approach in *American Journal of Archaeology*: 92.

Begley, Vimala 1986 .Rouletting and Chattering—Decoration on Ancient and Present-Day Pottery in India *Expedition* Volume 28, Issue 1

Bouchon Genevieve and Denys Lombard 1999. *The Indian Ocean in the Fifteenth Century in India and the Indian Ocean –1500-1800* (Ashin Das Gupta and M.N.Pearson eds.)New Delhi: Oxford

Bristow, R. C. 1938 .*History of Malabar Mud Banks Vols 1 & 2* .Cochin Government Press

Castambis, Alexis, Ben Ford and Donny L.Hamilton 2011. *The Oxford Handbook of Marine Archaeology* . Oxford:

Casson, L.1980.Rome's Trade with the East: The Sea Voyage to Africa and India in *Transactions of the American Philological Association* , 110

Casson, L. 1992.Ancient Naval Technology and the Route to India in *Rome and India .The Ancient Sea Trade* (Vimala Begley and Richard Daniel de Puma eds.) Delhi:

Casson, L.1988.Rome's Maritime Trade in the Far East in *The American Neptune* XLVIII

Chakrabarty, Dilip K 1997.*The Archaeology of Ancient Indian Cities*.Oxford: Oxford University Press

Chakrabarty, Dilip K. 2008. *Globalisation and Indian Archaeology*—Y.D.Sharma Memorial lecture delivered at Indian Archaeological Society on 2nd January 2008

Chakrabarty, Dilip K. 2014 *Nation First—Essays in the Politics of Ancient Indian Studies*.New Delhi: Aryan Books International

Chakrabarty, Dilip K. 2014 *Foreign Archaeological Collaborations and India's Security Concerns* Lecture delivered at Vivekananda International Foundation New Delhi.

Chakravarti, Ranabir. 2010.*Exploring Early India –Upto c. AD 1300* Delhi: Macmillan

Chakravarti, Ranabir (Ed.) 2001. *Trade in Early India*. New Delhi: Oxford

Cherian, P.J. 2007-2008 *Muziris Heritage Project and the Archaeological Research at Pattanam : An Overview*.Paper Presented at International Seminar on Muziris Heritage Project and Archaeological Research at Pattanam 2007 and 2008. Government of Kerala.

Cherian P.J. , K.P.Shajan and V.Selvakumar 2009.*The Ancient Port of Muziris: Evidence on Indian Ocean Exchanges from Pattanam, Kerala India*. Paper Presented at the Ancient Indian Ocean Corridors Conference at the School of Archaeology, University of Oxford November 7-9 2009.

Cherian, P. J., Ravi-Prashad, G. V., Dutta, K., Ray, D. K., Selvakumar, V, and Shajan, K.P (2009). Chronology of Pattanam: A multi-cultural port site on the Malabar coast in *Current Science* 97: 236–240.

Cherian, P.J. 2010.Pattanam Archaeological Research Programme in *Archaeology Abroad*. London:

Cherian P.J. 2009-10.Pattanam to Challenge Eurocentric Notions and help Rewrite the History of Indian Ocean Trade in *Journal of Indian Ocean Archaeology* (Sunil Gupta ed.) No.6.

Cherian,P.J. , K P Shajan, V Selvakumar, M Nambirajan & K Rajan 2011 *Crossing Cultures in Asia* –Pacific Regional Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage , 2011 Posters

Cherian, P. J., Nambirajan, M., Shajan, K. P.,Selvakumar, V and Rajan, K. 2011.*Pattanam Excavations –Interim Reports 2011*. Thiruvananthapuram : KCHR

Cherian, P.J. "*Pattanam Puravasthu Thelivukalum Keraalthinde Aadimachristhava Charithravum" (Mal.), Heritage and Development in the Mission of the Church*, Festschrift in Honour of His Grace The Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Mar Thoma Metropolitan, Thiruvalla, 2011, pp. 300–308.

Cherian, P.J. 2012 .*Pattanam Archaeological Site : The Wharf Context and the Maritime Exchanges*

Cherian , P.J and Jaya Menon 2014.*Unearthing Pattanam – Histories, Cultures, Crossings* . New Delhi: National Museum, KCHR and Sahapedia

Cherian, P.J. 2015. *Pattanam Excavation Report 2015 –9th Season* . Thiruvananthapuram: KCHR

Cherian , P.J. 2015 *Pattanam Site and Architectural Features at Early Historic Port Cities:Architectural Features,Construction Techniques and Conservation with Special Reference to Pattanam*. International Workshop by KCHR and BM

Claire Smith and H. Martin Wobst (Eds.) 2005 .*Indigenous Archaeologies: Decolonising Theory and Practice*. Routledge .

Colin Renfrew and Paul Bahn 2015 (Revised) *Archaeology Essentials: Theories, Methods, Practice*. London : Thames and Hudson

Das Gupta, Ashin 2004.Malabar in c. 1740 in The World of the Indian Ocean Merchant (1500—1800) *Collected Essays of Ashin Das Gupta* .Compiled by Uma Das Gupta .New Delhi: Oxford

Das Gupta Ashin and M.N.Pearson (Eds.)1999 . *India and the Indian Ocean – 1500 -1800*.New Delhi: Oxford

Das, P.K. 1998. *The Monsoons*.New Delhi: National Book Trust

Deloche , Jean. 2010. Roman Trade Routes in South India: Geographical and Technical Factors (C. 1st Cent . BC – 5th Cent . AD*)* in *Indian Journal of History of Science*, 45.1

Deshpande, Y.V. 1977 *Structural Features and Submergence of West Coast of India During Quaternary Period* (Abstract) Seminar on Quaternary Environment With Special Reference to West Coast , Baroda.

Dhavalikar, M.K.2001. Green Imperialism:Monsoon in Antiquity and Human Response in *Man and Environment* Vol XXVI No 2 .

Edna Fernandes 2008. *The Last Jews of Kerala* .Skyhorse Publishers.

Epperson, Terrence W. 2004. Critical Race Theory and the Archaeology of the African Diaspora in *Historical Archaeology* 38(1): 101–108.

Evans, John G. 1978. *An Introduction to Environmental Archaeology*.New York: Cornell University

Finkel, Irving L. 2014 *The Ark Before Noah: Decoding the Story of the Flood*. First Anchor Books

Francis, Peter, Jr. 2002. *Asia's Maritime Bead Trade from ca 300 BC to the Present*. Honolulu: University of Hawai Press.

Ghosh, A. 1973 *The City in Early Historical India* . Shimla : Indian Institute of Advanced Study

Ghosh A. 1989. *An Encyclopaedia on Indian Archaeology* –Vol 1. Delhi:Munshiram

Gogte, Vishwas D. 2002.Ancient Maritime Trade in the Indian Ocean: Evaluation by Scientific Studies of Pottery in *Man and Environment* –Special Volume— Indian Ocean in Antiquity, Vol XXVII, No.1

Goitein, S.D. 1987 Portrait of a Medieval India Trader: Three Letters from the Cairo Geniza *in Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* Vol. 50, No. 3

Goitein S.D. 2001. *From Eden to India: Specimens of the Correspondence of Indian Traders of the Twelfth Century in Trade in Early India* (Ranavir Chakravarti Ed.)New Delhi: Oxford

Goitein,S.D. and Mordechai Akiva Friedman 2007. *India Traders of the Middle Ages— Documents from the Cairo Geniza* 'India Book'.Brill :

Goitein S.D. 2015 *Letters of Medieval Jewish Traders* .Princeton:

Gupta, Parameswari Lal, 2000 (Reprint) .*Coins*. New Delhi:National Book Trust

Handsman, Russell G., and Trudie Lamb Richmond, 1995. Confronting Colonialism: The Mahican and Schaghticoke Peoples and US *In Making Alternative Histories: The Practice of Archaeology and History in Non-Western Settings*, ed. by Peters R. Schmidt and Thomas C. Patterson, 87–117. School of American Research, Santa Fe, NM.

Indian Archaeology –A Review 1984-85: .New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India

Katz, Nathan. 2000. *Who are the Jews of India*. London: University of California.

Mathai and Nair S.B. 1988 Stages in the Emergence of the Cochin –Kodungallur Coast—Evidence for the Interaction of Marine and Fluvial Processes.*Proceedings of the Indian National Science Academy* 54, A, No 3.

Mattingly, David J. 2011. Deconstructing the Discourses of Roman Imperialism in *Historically Speaking* Volume 12, Number 1, January 2011

McIntosh,Jane 1999.*The Practical Archaeologist –How We Know What We Know of the Past.*New York: Checkmark Books

Nair K. K. and C.S. Subramaniam 1993.*Geology and Geomorphology of the Kodungallur Area, Thrissur District, Kerala*. Paper Presented at the National Seminar on Archaeology and Toponomy of Kodungallur.

Nair R.R. 1976 . (Abstract) *Stratigraphic Analysis of Kerala Basin*.Seminar on Geology and Geomorphology of Kerala, Trivandrum

Narayanan, M G S 2013 (Reprint) *Perumals of Kerala*. Thrishur: Cosmo Books

Poduval, R.Vasudeva 1970. Metal Images from Thiruvanchikkulam in *The Arts and Crafts of Kerala* (Stella Kramrisch, J.H.Cousins and R.Vasudeva Poduval Eds.) .Trivandrum:Paico

Pollard, Justin 2007. *The Story of Archaeology –In Fifty Great Discoveries*.London: Quercus

Stella Kramrisch, J.H.Cousins and R.Vasudeva Poduval (Eds) 1970. *The Arts and Crafts of Kerala*. Trivandrum:Paico

Rajan, K.2002.Maritime Trade in Early Historic Tamil Nadu in *Man and Environment* –Special Volume—Indian Ocean in Antiquity, Vol XXVII, No.1

Rajendran,C.P Kusala Rajendran, S. Srinivasalu, Vanessa Andrade, P. Aravazhi,and Jaishri Sanwal 2011 Geoarchaeological Evidence of a Chola-Period Tsunami from an Ancient Port at Kaveripattinam onthe Southeastern Coast of India in *Geoarchaeology:An International Journal*, Vol. 26, No. 6, 867–887

Raman, K.V. 1968 *Excavation at Pumpuhar* in "The Handbook" published .by the Exhibition Committee II International Tamil Conference, Madras:

Raman, K.V. 1988. *Excavations at Uraiyur*. Madras:

Raman, K.V. 1991. *Roman Contacts with Tamil Nadu* (Southeastern India) – Recent Findings. Paper Presented at UNESCO Silk Road Maritime Routes Seminar, Bangkok :

Raman, K.V. 1999.Material Culture of South India as Revealed in Archaeological Excavations in *The Dawn of Indian Civilization upto 600BC* (G.C.Pande ed.)New Delhi: Centre For Studies in Civilizations

Ramasamy, SM. 2005. Tectonic and Geomorphic evolution of West Coast Along Mangalore- Cape Comorin Sector, *India in Remote Sensing in Geomorphology* (SM.Ramasamy ed).New Delhi: New India Publishing Agency

Rangarajan, L.N. 1992 *Kautilya'S Arthasastra* (Translation) New Delhi: Penguin

Roy, Kumkum 2009. *Historical Dictionary of Ancient India*. Hachette India

Rao K.P. and C.G.K Ramanujam 1976. A Further Record of Microthyriaceous Fungi from the Neogene Deposits of Kerala in South India in *Geophytology* 6(1)

Rao, S.R. 2001.*Marine Archaeology in India*.New Delhi: Publications Division

Ray, Himanshu Prabha 2003 *The Archaeology of Seafaring in Ancient South Asia*.Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Ray, Himanshu Prabha 2005. Book Review of S. Suresh, 2004. *Symbols of Trade: Roman and Pseudo-Roman Objects Found in India*. New Delhi: Manohar.

Ray, Himanshu Prabha 2008. *Colonial Archaeology in South Asia—The Legacy of Mortimer Wheeler.* Oxford: Oxford University Press

Robert M.May (Introduction) 2008. *The Britanicca Guide to Climate Change*. Robinson:

Sabberwal, Sathish 1968.The Problem, in *Seminar* No 112 (Issue on Academic Colonialism)

Said, Edward W. 2001 (Reprint) *Orientalism—Western Conceptions of the Orient*. New Delhi: Penguin

Sarkar, H. 1978. *An Architectural Survey of Temples in Kerala* .New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India

Sarkar, H.1992. *Monuments of Kerala*.New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India

Schwartz Maurice (Ed.) 2006 *Encyclopedia of Coastal Science* . Springer:

Shih , Cheng Feng 2010. Academic Colonialism and the Struggle for Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Taiwan in *Social Alternatives* Vol. 29 No.1

Singh, Upinder 2008. *A History of Ancient and Early Medieval India*: *From the Stone Age to the 12th Century* .Delhi: Pearson

Sivaramamurti, C.1974.Nataraja in Murals of Thiruvanchikulam in *Nataraja in Art, Thought and Literature*.New Delhi : Publications Division.

Soundara Rajan, K.V. and K.V.Raman 1968-69. Excavations in Kerala in *Indian Archaeology –A Review.*New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.

Soundara Rajan, K.V. and K.V.Raman 1969-70. Excavations in Kerala in *Indian Archaeology –A Review.*New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.

Soundararajan, K.V. 1994. Kaverippattinam Excavations 1963-73.*(*A Port City on the Tamil Nadu Coast) *Memoirs of the ASI*. New Delhi: Archaeological Survey of India.

Stavorinus J.S. 1789.*Voyage to the East Indies*. Vol. 111.London:

Szanton, David L. 2004.*The Politics of Knowledge: Area Studies and the Disciplines* Los Angeles: University of California Press

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (With Rules 1959, 2011, 7 of 1904 and Madras Act 25 of 1966) .Delhi: Professional Publishers

Thapar, Romila 2002. *The Penguin History of Early India —From the Origins to Early 1300.*New Delhi: Penguin

Thapar, Romila 2000. Hindutva and History in Frontline 17 (20) September 30 - October 13

Thapar, Romila 1982.*Ideology and the Interpretation of Early Indian History* in Review 5, No 3.

Tomber Roberta 2007.Bishops and traders: The role of Christianity in the Indian Ocean during the Roman period.In J. Starkey, P. Starkey, & T. Wilkinson (Eds.) *Natural resources and cultural connections of the Red Sea* (pp. 219 – 226). Oxford: Archaeopress.

Tomber, Roberta 2006. Bishops and Traders: The Role of Christianity in the Indian Ocean during the Roman Period' in *Natural Resources and Cultural Connections of the Red Sea.* Janet Starkey, Paul Starkey and Tony J. Wilkinson (Eds.) Red Sea Project III. Oxford:

Trigger, Bruce G., 1984, *Alternative Archaeologies: Nationalist, Colonialist, Imperialist*. Man, New Series, Vol. 19, No. 3. (Sep., 1984), pp. 355–370.

Tripati, Sila 2011 *Ancient maritime trade of the eastern Indian littoral* in *Current Science* , Vol 100, No 7

Tripathi, Sila, S.K.Patnaik and S.K. Acharya 2014 Iron anchors of Northern Odisha, east coast India: Maritime contacts with European countries in *Bulletin of Australian Institute of Marine Archaeology* vol.38; 2014; 65-72

Tripati Sila 2009. Management of Ports and Maritime Trade of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh during the Historical Period *in Man and Environment*, vol.34(2); 2009; 77-90

Uberoi, Patricia, Satish Deshpande and Nandini Sundar. 2010. Introduction: The Professionalization of Indian Anthropology and Sociology—People, Places and Institutions in *Anthropology in the East –Founders of Indian Sociology and Anthropology*. New Delhi: Permanent Black.

Vishnu Mittre 1989 Forty Years of Archaeobotanical Research in South Asia in *Man and Environment* Vol XIV, No. 1

Wamai, Njoki 2016. Decolonising the Academy – Towards a Global Movement? In *University World News* 27 May 2016 Issue No:415

Will, Elizabeth .L. 2004. The Mediterranean Shipping Amphoras from 1989—1992 Excavations. *The Ancient Port of Arikkamedu: New Excavations and Researches -1989-92.Vol 2.* (V.Begley, P.Francis, I.Mahadevan, K.V.Raman, S.Sidebotham,K.W.Slane and E.L.Will) Pondicherry:

Will, Elizabeth .L 2004. "Mediterranean Amphorae in India." In *Transport Amphorae and Trade in the Eastern Mediterranean*, edited by J. Eiring and J. Lund, 433-440. Acts of the International Colloquium Held at the Danish Institute at Athens, September 26-29, 2002. Monographs of the Danish Institute at Athens 5 (Athens 2002).

Winternitz, M. 1927-28. A Hebrew inscription of 1269 AD from Chennamangalam in Cochin in *Report of the Cochin Archaeological Department*, Thrishur.

Yasuda, Yoshinori and Vasant Shinde (Eds) 2004. *Monsoon and Civilization* New Delhi: Roli Books

Reports

Muziris Heritage Project –Pattanam Excavations -2008 Published by KCHR 2008, Thiruvananthapuram

T.S.Anitha Shyam, 2013, Technical Report by Government of India , Ministry of Water Resources and Central Ground Water Board—Kerala Region Ernakulam District.

Hydrogeological and Hydrochemical Studies of Periyar River Basin Central Kerala

CWRDM. 1988. Frequency Study of Rainfall of Periyar Basin

CWRDM. 1993. Project Report on the Hydrological Data on Periyar Basin

IDRB.Water resources division, 1988. Water Resources Study of Periyar Basin

Space Application Centre Report 1992

Geology and Mineral Resources of Kerala- Geological Survey of India(Government of India) May 2005

Press Clippings

K. George Varghese 2004 Writing Family Histories: Identity Construction among Syrian Christians in *Economic and Political Weekly* (Vol. 39, No. 9 (Feb. 28 - Mar. 5, 2004),

Historic structure, ancient well excavated at Pattanam in *The Hindu* May 1, 2004

Remarks by T.Satyamurthy in *The Hindu* January 9, 2008

Study points to 500 BC Kerala maritime activity in *The Hindu* January 9, 2008

New finds at Muzuris heritage excavation *The Hindu* April 29, 2008

Destruction of Christian monuments draws flak in *The Hindu*, February 12, 2008

Rewrite history from Indian point of view: K.N. Panikkar in *The Hindu* March 6, 2009

No longer Greek and Latin in *The Hindu*, August 27, 2009

DU sociology dept faculty members split over European study centre in *The Indian Express* September 29, 2009.

Pattanam excavation trenches collapse in *The New Indian Express*, 5th May 2010

Pattanam excavation significant: M.A.Baby in *The Hindu*, May 29, 2010

'Muziris project to be opened for tourists within three months' in *The Hindu* December 21, 2010

University of Rome fellowship for P J Cherian in *The New Indian Express* February 17, 2011

Tamil-Brahmi script found at Pattanam in Kerala in *The Hindu* March 14, 2011

Pattanam finds throw more light on early maritime trade in *The Hindu* June 12, 2011

Expert nails false propaganda on Muziris, *The New Indian Express* August 5, 2011

Archaeologist calls for excavations at Kodungalloor *The Hindu*, August 5, 2011

ASI urged to explore Pattanam in *The Hindu* , October 22, 2011

Postulating Hypothesis is no Crime in *The Hindu* , October 26, 2011

MGS Narayanan asks KCHR to hand over Pattanam Excavations in *The Indian Express* 16 Nov 2011

Historian cautions on Pattanam excavations in *The Hindu*, February 6, 2012

Probe into fund misuse by Biennale Foundation in *The New Indian Express*, May 4, 2012.

Kodumanal excavation yields a bonanza again in *The Hindu* May 28, 2012

Learn about 'Muziris Papyrus'in *The Hindu* July 9, 2012

KCHR yet recover excess amount paid to senior staff in *The New Indian Express*, July 22, 2012

Lost world to get a rebirth at biennale in *The Hindu*, November 7, 2012.

Indian monsoon was more intense 6,000 years ago, says study in *The Hindu* December 12, 2012 Hyderabad edition

Update us'on biennale probe, HC to Kerala, *The Hindu*, January 11, 2013

More studies needed at Pattanam'-MGS Narayanan *The Hindu* May 24, 2013

Kerala faces its worst monsoon in years in *The Times of India* Aug 7, 2013

Pattanam throws open many questions: Romila Thapar in *The Hindu*, September 13, 2013.

Panic soars as rains flood dams in Kerala in *India Today* September 22, 2013

How the ark changed shape in *Catholic Herald* February 13, 2014

Kerala historians at loggerheads over archaeological findings at Pattanam, *The Hindu* , May 28, 2014

Artefacts from the lost Port of Muziris, *The Hindu* December 3, 2014.

China's Silk Road diplomacy willing to enmesh India's projects in *The Hindu*, April 6, 2015.

Profit makers funded by Ford Foundation illegally, probe finds, *The Times of India* May 4, 2015

Home Ministry brings in tighter norms for NGOs to track foreign funds in *The Economic Times*, June 19, 2015.

A dead city beneath a living village *The Hindu* August 19, 2015

A mosque visit Modi finds hard to pull off in *The Hindu* , August 27, 2015.

Mud banks refuse to reveal their secrets in *The Hindu*, September 13, 2015.

Doubting Thomases suspend Saint project in *The Telegraph* October 1, 2015

Pattanam among top field projects *Deccan Chronicle* December 28, 2015

ASI probe into KCHR's 'Pattanam excavations in *Business Standard*, January 5, 2016

Digging up Madurai's Sangam past by T.S.Subramanyan in *Frontline*, February 19, 2016

Pattanam is not Muziris asserts MGS *The Hindu* February 27, 2016

President skips Pattanam exhibition in *The Hindu* February 28, 2016

Websites

http://asi.nic.in/asi_underw_fieldwork.asp

http://expressbuzz.com/cities/thiruvananthapuram/kchr-asked-to-hand-over-pattanam-excavation/333792.html

http://www.keralahistory.ac.in/muzirisbrochure_2008.pdf

http://www.wpfdc.org/blog/society/19487-culture-wars-in-india-and-elsewhere

Dr.B.S.Harishankar was Assistant Director, Indraprastha Museum of Art and Archaeology, New Delhi. He has completed his two post doctoral research fellowship programmes and has worked in national and international projects in archaeology. His previous publications include *Art and Archaeology of India—Stone Age to the Present* (2003), *An Introduction to Archaeology and Heritage Management* (2013) and *Imprints of the Past –An Archaeological Outline of Northeast India* (2015)

Pattanam
Constructs, Contexts and Interventions
B.S.Harishankar

The Pattinam excavations under Cherian have also began to attract some Biblical and Jewish scholarly interest, making the whole thing look like an unholy conglomeration of various interest groups.It is time the Government of India took serious interest of these groups.

Professor Dilip K.Chakrabarti
2014 Nation First
Emeritus Professor, South Asian Archaeology and Senior Fellow, McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Cambridge University.

The Kerala government has been misled by the KCHR into believing that the archaeological site of Pattanam, a few miles away from Kodungalloor, was the location of the famous ancient harbour of Muziris. It's unfortunate that they have now sought to drag the President into the controversy.

Professor MGS Narayanan
Former Chairman ICHR
The Hindu February 27, 2016 Thiruvananthapuram edition

It is only a myth, which has now been connected with the excavations at Pattanam near Kodungalloor.. Myth cannot be called history. Connecting myth with history could only create confusion and distort history.

Dr.R.Nagaswamy,
Former Director of Archaeology, Government of Tamil Nadu
Indian Express November 5, 2011 Kochi edition

ISBN 978-81-933379-0-5
9 788193 337905 >
₹ 250

Bharatheeya Vichara Kendram
Thiruvananthapuram
www.vicharakendram.org